

# THE TIMES

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THURSDAY  
30p  
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## PoWs attack Emperor's speech



### Anger over 'deep sorrow' reference

By ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO, MICHAEL BINYON, ALAN HAMILTON AND JOANNA BAILE

FORMER prisoners of war were angered yesterday after reports that Emperor Akihito did not express "deep sorrow" about the victims of war in his speech at Buckingham Palace.

Language experts said that the Emperor had actually said: "Our hearts feel deep pain". But the key words were added to the English translation given to the Queen and Tony Blair, which read: "At the thought of the scars of war that they bear, our hearts are filled with deep sorrow and pain."

The discrepancy prompted an immediate row over whether the Japanese had intentionally tried to mislead their English-speaking audience — a claim they vehemently denied last night. The Japanese Embassy said that the phrase "deep sorrow" had been added to make the Emperor's meaning unambiguous.

Japanese Foreign Ministry and Imperial Palace officials had toiled for weeks over the Emperor's speech, striving for phraseology that would appease Britain's former PoWs without antagonising Japanese nationalists. A Japanese Palace insider said: "To have

the Emperor say the words 'deep sorrow' would have come unacceptably close to an apology for some people in Japan."

An Embassy spokesman said the true text was the Japanese one, but there had been fears that the phrase "pain in our hearts" might be unclear to a British audience, which might take it literally and believe that the Emperor referred to a physical heart condition. "For that reason, the phrase 'deep sorrow' was added in the unofficial translation into English, to make it clear that this is what a Japanese listener would have understood the Emperor to mean by the phrase."

A senior Japanese Embassy official said later that the speech had been translated in Tokyo after careful deliberation by the Foreign Ministry and the Imperial Household Agency. "We never intended to mislead. We tried to get the best sense of what the Japanese is saying. The English translation is the true feeling of the Emperor, and we cannot distort what the Emperor expresses."

The key phrase, according



Emperor Akihito of Japan waving to crowds while he and Empress Michiko visited Cardiff Castle with the Prince of Wales yesterday

to the official, was *kokoro no itami*, meaning "pain in our hearts". He said: "Itami means pain, physical pain. Had the Emperor said *itami* alone, that would have distorted his meaning. But to say *kokoro no itami* means mental pain, which is a much wider meaning."

Foreign Office Japanese language experts agreed that the English transcript was a "fair and accurate translation between languages that often do not translate literally."

Organisations representing former PoWs were angered, however, by what they saw as a "deliberate misrepresentation."

Arthur Titherington of the Japanese Labour Camps Survivors' Association said: "This is outrageous trickery, a positive intention to mislead us. I am glad this has come to light, it is a damn good piece of work. It really does show that the Japanese are telling us fairy stories."

"We have been saying this all along about the Japanese apologies — they are given an English interpretation that the Japanese think we want to hear. Even Tony Blair used a Japanese government interpreter when he visited Japan."

Mr Titherington added that he would not be happy until

the Japanese government used the word *shazzai*, one of the strongest forms of apology.

Ann Levick of the Association of British Civilian Internees, Far East Region, said: "This is an absolutely disgraceful deception. They should either apologise properly or not at all, rather than fobbing us off like this."

The difference between the Japanese and English texts of Emperor Akihito's speech was confirmed by Professor Drew Gerstle, Professor of Japanese at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies. He said: "The interpreters have added a little," said

Professor Gerstle, "but in an exam you would not say this was incorrect."

Professor Gerstle said that the Japanese word *kanashimi*, for "I feel sorrow" or "I feel sadness", appeared at the beginning of the paragraph where the Emperor said: "It truly saddens me, however, that the relationship nurtured between our two countries should have been marred by the Second World War."

But it was not repeated at the point of emphasis, where

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## Blair heads for union row over £3.60 minimum wage

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister is heading for a further confrontation with trade unions after receiving a report from the Low Pay Commission that recommends a minimum wage of £3.60 an hour.

The figure, which is likely to be backed by Tony Blair, contrasts with the rate of more than £4 an hour recommended by the TUC. Yesterday the CBI indicated that it could accept the commission's figure.

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Employers had said earlier that any figure above £3.40 would cost jobs, but Sir Colin Marshall, President of the CBI, said yesterday that he could live with £3.50 or £3.60 an hour.

The TUC had called for a figure of at least £4 an hour and suggested that that should be a national rate with no exemptions or lower rates for younger employees.

Unions such as Unison, the public sector workers' union, have called for £4.61 an hour under a formula tied to male average earnings. A minimum wage of £3.60 an hour would mean about £170 for a 38-hour week, or just over £7,000 a year.

The Government has been pushing privately for an exemption for those under 18 and a lower rate for those under 26. About 1.5 million workers will get the full hourly rate if those under 21 get a lower rate.

The report from the com-

mission, which includes TUC and the CBI representatives, is said to recommend an exemption for those under 18 but a lower rate, possibly £3.20, only for those aged 18 to 21. It is also expected to exempt or have a lower rate for those on special training schemes.

There have been tensions between ministers about the hourly minimum wage, with some calling for an exemption for all those under 26, and it is likely that there will be further negotiations on the commission's report.

The Government has made clear that it is not bound by the details of the report and its response is likely to go to Cabinet for approval next week.

Last night Mr Blair, who received the report yesterday, said that minimum standards and a minimum wage "are entirely consistent with a dynamic and efficient economy, provided they are sensibly implemented."

## Hague falls out of favour with Tories

By JILL SHERMAN

WILLIAM HAGUE'S personal rating among Conservative supporters has dropped sharply this month despite the Tories' reasonable showing in the local elections, according to a MORI poll for *The Times*.

Labour's rating stays at 55 per cent while the Tories have dropped one percentage point to 26 per cent. The Liberal Democrats are unchanged at 14 per cent.

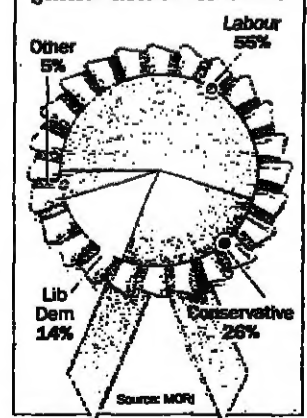
Mr Hague's personal ratings as Tory leader among the public has dropped from a net 15 to -25 points, measured by those satisfied less than dissatisfied. Last month only 38 per cent of Tories were satisfied with his performance while 45 per cent of Tories were dissatisfied with Mr Blair's.

This seven-point gap has now widened to 18 points.

The poll was taken shortly after Mr Hague's Euro-speech in Fontainebleau when he delivered a strident attack on the single currency.

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,832

Q How would you vote if there were a general election tomorrow?



adults aged 18 at 155 sampling points across Great Britain. Interviews were conducted face to face on May 21-24, 1998. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. The voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (9 per cent), are undecided (6 per cent) or refuse to say (1 per cent).

## Owen winner lifts England

Michael Owen, 18, became the youngest footballer to score for England when he struck the winner in a 1-0 victory against Morocco in Casablanca. Glenn Hoddle, the England manager, made nine changes, from the side that faced Saudi Arabia, but his plans were disrupted by a knee injury to Ian Wright, whose World Cup prospects look slim. Page 52

## Kremlin crisis

President Yeltsin called a crisis meeting at the Kremlin after a wave of panic sent Russian shares plunging yesterday as domestic banks, brokers and foreign investors dumped stock. Interest rates were raised to 150 per cent. Pages 27, 29

## Nuclear test

Pakistan has completed preparations for an underground nuclear test at its Baluchistan desert site and could conduct a controlled explosion within hours of deciding to do so, according to American intelligence officials. Page 18

## Parking ticket that turned justice upside down

By PAUL WILKINSON

THERE was nothing wrong with the way Robert Walls parked his car, but he was distinctly reckless in the way he positioned his 40p parking permit. He stuck it on his passenger window, upside down.

That was enough to earn him a £15 fixed penalty near the market square of Beverley, East Yorkshire, where a traffic warden decided to take a swift line on this sort of

the fine was quashed by East Riding council, whose officials admitted that the unidentified warden "was perhaps a little over-zealous."

Some staff at the traffic office were reported to be hysterical with laughter at the penalty notice with the offence listed as "Ticket displayed upside down."

Mr Walls, 43, a special-needs teacher from nearby Wakefield, had paid 40p to park in a street near the

Ford Escort well inside the one-hour time limit. He said: "It's not like I'd forgotten to buy the ticket. I didn't realise this was an offence. Wardens get a bad press and things like this don't exactly promote them."

Mike Dainty, the council's principal traffic officer, said: "If a ticket is upside down it makes it more difficult to read, but provided it was valid I would suggest the attendant was perhaps a little

leagues of the warden, identified only as number 567, said he was off work ill.

Warden 773, who identified himself as Steve, said: "Drivers leave their tickets all over the car, on the seat, on the floor. Some try to stay much longer, hoping we won't do anything because we can't read it. We always try to read them if we can. Look, I have just ticketed one driver who put the ticket face down on the dash. How am I supposed to

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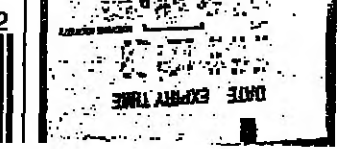
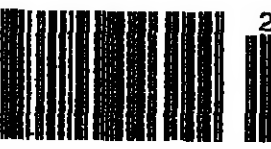
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# Officers threaten to strike at new high-tech prison

Staff angry at shift patterns imposed after two suicides by inmates at Parc jail, writes Richard Ford

BRITAIN'S first high-technology jail is threatened with industrial action over new working conditions imposed on staff after a serious of disturbances and two suicides.

Leaders of the moderate Prison Service Union said last night that the imposition of new shift patterns had been the final straw for staff working at Parc jail near Bridgend in South Wales.

It is planning to ballot prison custody officers for industrial action at the Securicor-run jail in the next two weeks. The union is acting only three weeks after it persuaded 60 of its members not to walk out of

the jail in protest at the way that it had been run since opening in November last year.

Philip Hornsby, national officer of the union, condemned the way that the prison had been run since it opened, and claimed that his members were fearful for their safety.

He said last night: "Parc prison has been a disaster. Staff shortages and managerial incompetence have resulted in major incidents. Loyal and professional staff have provided the only thread of consistency in the prison's short history".

Mr Hornsby claimed that many staff had already left the jail, and that others were working up to 16 hours a day without a mealbreak.

"Staff have had enough," he added. He said that the last straw for prison custody officers at the £80 million jail was when new shift patterns were arbitrarily imposed, resulting in staff having to work two weekends in three rather than being allowed alternate weekends off.

The threat of industrial action is the latest blow at the jail, which has been beset with problems since it opened, including two suicides and a number of disturbances.

Its head of programmes left at Christmas for personal reasons; the prison's first director took time off sick and then left to work in another part of Securicor, and his temporary replacement also left for personal reasons.

The Prison Service Union claims that staff have left the jail "hand over fist" since it opened, and Securicor has admitted that the

prison had had a bigger "attrition rate" among staff than the company had expected. An additional 42 staff were drafted into the jail earlier this week in the hope that they would help provide a "more settled regime".

Joyce Quin, the Prisons Minister, has ordered a report on the jail and the Prison Service has agreed an action plan with Securicor to strengthen the running of the jail.

A spokesman for Securicor Custodial Services said last night that the jail had a staff association, and that a consultative negotiating committee had been set up on which employees were represented. He said that consultation on shift patterns was ongoing.

The jail is the first to use swipe cards, and made much of its state-of-the-art technology that enabled one officer to oversee 75 inmates. It also means that one officer can be at a desk, control the remote locking of all cell doors and keep watch on inmates.

Two more inmates at Wormwood Scrubs jail in southwest London have alleged that they were assaulted by staff. A governor at the jail, already the centre of brutality allegations, is investigating one of the latest claims and the other has been referred to the Metropolitan Police.

A Prison Service spokesman said yesterday: "Prisons occasionally receive allegations made by prisoners about treatment by staff. All allegations are investigated by prison management or where appropriate the police. Furthermore, prisoners are entitled to go directly to the police with the allegation if they so choose," he added.

ADAM BUTLER/PA

# Irvine answers accusation of culture elitism

Investment in our heritage is in public interest, Lord Chancellor insists. Frances Gibb reports

THE Lord Chancellor last night defended government policy on culture and the arts against those who accuse the Government of "dumbing down" and of those who complain of elitism.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, who prompted a barrage of media criticism over the refurbishment of his official apartment, said the experience of backing a restoration project of a Grade I listed building had taught him "many lessons".

Coming close to admitting he might have handled the affair better, he told an audience at the Royal Academy Summer Banquet: "Of course it is possible to make mistakes in attempting to explain a policy of authentic restoration and an increase in public access for enjoyment."

But his concern was not with his own case but with the wider point, he said. "We must battle against those who view such investment as somehow elitist, a luxurious add-on and not in the general public interest."

The Lord Chancellor paid tribute to the restoration of Jacob Rothschild at Waddesdon Manor in Buckinghamshire and at Somerset House in London, and to Jocelyn Stevens's leadership in restoring the Albert Memorial.

Royal Academicians, he joked, could be forgiven for

having an image of himself as "some wicked baron careering about the country from city to city, in a lorry, seizing priceless works from gallery walls and racing back to the Palace of Westminster laden down with the loot".

Lord Irvine went on to applaud new building projects such as the Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside and the British Museum's Great Court Scheme. "There is nothing elitist here. It is offering people the very best that the available money can buy."

He added: "Greater access to art and heritage of the highest quality is a prize the Government seeks."

The Government had ensured free admission policies were maintained at national galleries and museums and had simplified arrangements for the acceptance of works of art into public collections from

private ownership. The announcement recently that the Sherborne Missal, one of the "supreme masterpieces of medieval Christian art", on extended loan to the British Library, had been accepted under this scheme gave him "particular pleasure".

Lord Irvine went on to say that he was troubled that the current debate about culture was "clouded with accusations that the Government is engaged in the dumbing down of the arts".

Commentators were confusing the Government's policy of support for cultural activities in film, television and design with its policy of widening opportunities for more people to appreciate and take part in traditional art forms, he said.

"I believe it is misleading to seek to argue that because the first proposition is sound you cannot rely on the commitment to the second."

He recalled the image of queues of people stretching around Trafalgar Square during the war waiting for their glimpse of the one painting that month in the National Gallery. "For each individual that experience was a shaft of sunlight in a grey world; not an escape but an inspiration," Lord Irvine said. "It is that objective of cultural policy which the Government will hold fast in its mind."



Breaking cover: George Robertson with Polish and Ukrainian officials among troops on the combined exercise at Stanford, Norfolk

BY MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

# Operation Cossack Steppe unites old foes

SOLDIERS from Britain, Ukraine and Poland joined forces on British soil for the first time yesterday in an exercise codenamed Operation Cossack Steppe.

Ukrainian troops had never taken part in an exercise in Britain, and Polish troops had not trained here since the Second World War.

Paratroopers from the three countries took part in an exercise in Ukraine last September. George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, who watched both exercises, said yesterday:

"It's very important to have former Cold War opponents training together. Poland and Ukraine are two countries pivotal to the future of Europe."

Poland is one of three former Warsaw Pact countries expected to become a full member of Nato next April. Ukraine has not applied to join

the alliance but is a member of Nato's Partnership for Peace training programme. Next year the Royal Navy will be training with Russian warships for the first time in a bilateral arrangement agreed last year.

Yesterday's exercise at Stanford training camp, Norfolk, involved 60 Ukrainians from the long-range reconnaissance unit and Airborne Military School, 35 Poles from the Parachute Assault Battalion, and 90 British soldiers from the 2nd Battalion Parachute Regiment. It included fighting in built-up areas and range work.

Commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion Parachute Regiment, said: "We have found that underneath the language difficulties, the Polish and Ukrainian soldiers are exactly the same as our soldiers. They have all got on very well and we hope that if we all get deployed to Bosnia, for instance, we will already have built the relationship."

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ALLIANCE LEICESTER

# Labour claims a promising start on jobs for young

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE New Deal programme to get young people off welfare and into work has made an encouraging start, ministers said yesterday. Official figures showed that more than four in ten of those leaving the first three months of the scheme had gone on to be employed without state subsidy.

But the Conservatives said the figures were meaningless because most of those who had entered the New Deal had yet to find any work at all.

The Department for Education and Employment said that during January, February and March this year in the scheme's 12 pilot areas, some 16,400 unemployed people had entered the initial "gateway" period. At this stage, they get advice on interviews, curriculum vitae and the various New Deal options.

Under the scheme, people aged 18 to 24 who have been claiming job seekers' allowance for six months must find a job or go on to one of four options to avoid having their benefit cut. Of the 3,800 people who have left the

gateway, 1,570 have found unsubsidised jobs; 550 have found jobs with a £60 weekly subsidy from the Government for the first six months; 500 have gone into full-time education or training; 70 have found voluntary sector work; and 50 have joined the Environmental Taskforce.

Additional figures released for April, when the scheme was introduced nationally, showed that a further 18,000 people had entered the gateway, with an extra 900 people getting unsubsidised work, and 850 in subsidised jobs.

Andrew Smith, the Employment Minister, said that not too much should be read into these early figures, but added: "There are some very early indications that the New Deal is popular with young people and employers and has got off to an encouraging start."

David Willetts, the Shadow Employment Minister, said it had failed to provide real jobs. "Only 10 per cent of New Deal participants have gone into work so far. This modest performance does not justify the hype and expense."

# Baby snatching is impossible to stop, says expert panel

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

BABY snatching from hospitals is impossible to prevent, an independent inquiry into the abduction of a three-hour-old child has concluded.

The report into what happened when Karl Hawthorne was taken from a maternity ward at Basildon Hospital in Essex last December found it was "not possible to have a fail-safe system which would prevent a similar incident".

The hospital has since introduced tighter security controls, restricting visiting hours and the number of people allowed into the maternity ward. The ward is locked 24 hours a day and can only be entered using an electronic swipe card, a system the report recommends should be more widely used. It also suggests the introduction of a "tagging" alarm or similar system.

The four-strong panel which investigated the case agreed that "no one security measure can exist in isolation of others and the responsibility for maintaining a secure environment is the shared responsibility of staff and the public".

Karl was missing for 14 hours before she was found and returned to her parents, Tanya and Karl, Denise Giddings, 33, a mother of three, was sentenced in April to three years' probation after admitting abduction.

The panel praised the vigilance and prompt action of staff when Karl was taken. "It is evident that the trust had taken a pro-active approach to security management in the maternity unit," Fiona East, a non-executive director who chaired the panel, said.

David Hooper, chairman of the Basildon and Thurrock General Hospitals NHS Trust, accepting the recommendations, said: "The inquiry has concluded there is no fail-safe system; nothing that can guarantee 100 per cent security."

"The best security is staff and public all being aware and working together to maintain a secure environment and I ask for the public's support and co-operation in that."

Mr Hooper said the trust would implement the additional security measures recommended.

# PoWs' anger over Emperor's speech

Continued from page 1

those opposed to the Emperor's visit would have liked to see it. "This is very carefully done, diplomatic language," Professor Gerstle said. "There is no apology here, but it is quite powerful language."

A journalist working for the quality Japanese newspaper, *Asahi Shimbun*, said the words actually said by the Emperor were a more profound apology and carried a sense of strong emotion, misdirection, and an admission of failure.

The journalist said the word *kanashimi* was weaker in meaning, and would be used to express regret, for example at losing a ticket or bus pass. A source close to the Emperor said: "There was certainly no attempt to mislead. There



Prince Charles and his imperial guests at Cardiff Castle

was so much scrutiny of this speech - the Japanese version which was read out was widely available to journalists who had their own translators - that nothing would have

been gained by doing that. The speech was written and translated very carefully. It is understood that the translation was done by a team of linguists employed by

the Japanese Government. The former PoWs were also angered by remarks made by Emperor Akihito's top aide yesterday, dismissing the protests of prison camp survivors as "inexplicable flag burning".

Kazuo Chiba, a former ambassador to Britain, told a press conference: "Of course, there are people who demonstrate. They are within their rights, they are part of a structure of society, but they are not the entire British society. The visit has been a great success. Of course there have been demonstrations, inexplicable flag burning."

Keith Martin, chairman of the internees' association, said: "These are very arrogant and condescending remarks. The less we hear from Chiba, the better."

# Scots

Gillian Harris

THE TIMES THURSDAY MAY 28 1998

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# Scots come to the rescue of les Vikings

Gillian Harris reports on an epic longboat voyage interrupted by a mishap in the North Sea

THEY set out in a Viking longboat from Norway for the shores of Britain, intending to strike deep into the heart of the north country before continuing an epic journey to western France. Unfortunately, they had to be rescued by a helicopter off the coast of Scotland yesterday when their boat, *Thorvald*, sprung a leak. Last night they were sheltering in the Seamen's Mission in Fraserburgh.

It was an ignominious start to an intrepid adventure, and hardly lived up to the reputation forged by the raping and pillaging Vikings of 1,100 years ago. Six French sailors who were supposed to be rowing from Bergen to Nantes in a replica 9th century wooden vessel ran into difficulties 200 miles into the first leg of their journey. Strong winds and high waves in the North Sea threatened to engulf their 27ft boat, forcing them to radio the Aberdeen coastguard.

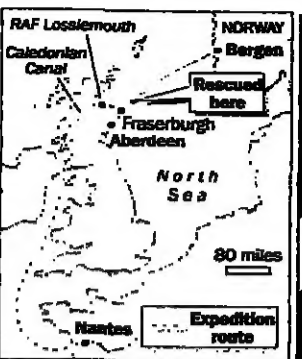
A lifeboat from Fraserburgh and a Sea King helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth found the stricken boat 16 miles off the northeast coast of Scotland. The dejected crew, who set sail on Saturday, were crouched in several inches of water.

Yesterday, as he thawed

out in the Seamen's Mission, Yannick Favro, the 42-year-old skipper from Tours, said: "We were trying to make the same journey as the Vikings used to from Norway to France, but it became too difficult when we reached the North Sea. Big waves were breaking over the boat. I had to telephone to be rescued."

The rest of his crew — Alain Launay, Alain Ville, Yannick Brardier, Didier Paillet and Laurent Colmont — made the most of their unscheduled stop, enjoying hot meals courtesy of the mission staff.

M Favro, meanwhile, was



Yannick Favro was hoping to emulate the Vikings' epic journeys to France

planning to get his purpose-built longship back in the water. "It needs minor repairs. There might be a small leak. Then we will continue." He rejected a suggestion that it was foolhardy to cross rough seas in a frail craft without an engine. "Everything was okay," he said. "I

was surprised to see the helicopter because everything was alright with the crew. All I wanted was a boat to put a rope round my boat and it would have been okay."

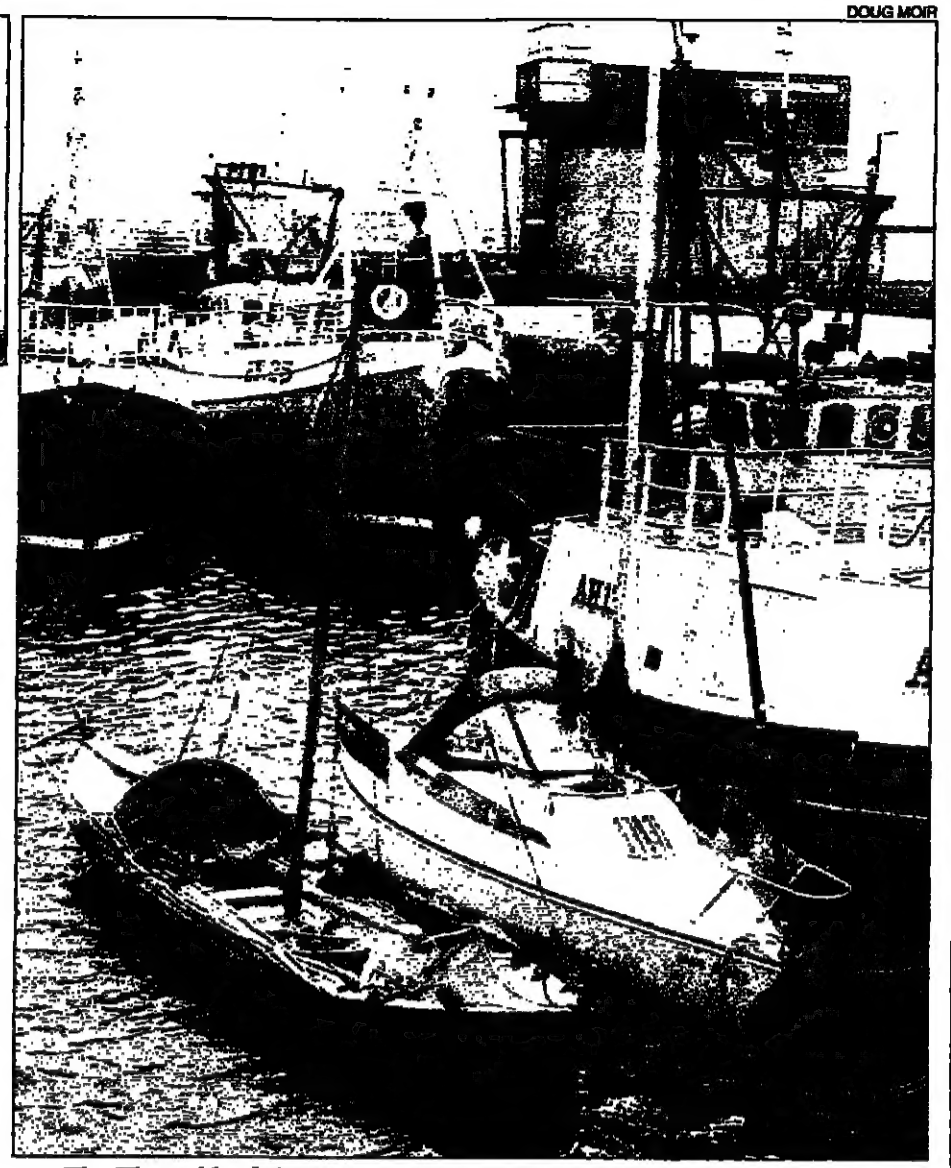
The next leg of the voyage will see another break with Viking tradition. The crew

will row down the Caledonian Canal, which did not exist in the 9th century. Then, Vikings hoisted their longboats on their heads and marched across the Great Glen from Inverness to Fort William before sailing down the west coast of England and Wales to France.

"We want to continue like Viking explorers and be as authentic as possible," but it will not be exactly the same. We will sail across Scotland. But I hope it will be an adventure," M Favro said, somewhat ingenuously.

A spokesman for Aberdeen coastguard said: "They got caught out by a combination of bad luck and bad weather. There is not much space in their longboat so once water started coming in, we had to get the crew off."

"I think they got a bit of a fright and of course their journey will not be as authentic as they had hoped. Back in Viking times there was no such thing as the Fraserburgh lifeboat."



The Thorvald safe in Fraserburgh harbour, where it will undergo repairs



The crew of the Thorvald enjoying a hot meal in the Seamen's Mission

## School bails out chaplain on German porn charge

By Deborah Colclough and Victoria Fletcher

THE bursar of a leading independent school last night flew to Germany to bring back its second chaplain, arrested for allegedly trying to sell a pornographic video, after school funds were used to bail him out of prison.

Tonbridge School, Kent, handed a court in Munich £1,200 (3,000 marks) to secure the release of the Rev Andrew Swindells after learning he could not afford the sum.

Tim Devlin, a spokesman for the school, last night said: "The bail was paid from emergency school funds. We have wanted to do anything we could to help Mr Swindells and think all parents would support us trying to help a member of staff who has got into difficulty."

The bursar, Ray Hart, flew club class from Heathrow to Munich yesterday afternoon to escort Mr Swindells on a school-funded return flight home hours later.

German police yesterday said the 32-year-old second school chaplain, who was arrested in Munich allegedly attempting to sell child pornography, was lured into their trap on Sunday by an undercover officer. Officers at Munich central police station claim that they managed to make contact with Mr Swindells after an anonymous tip-off.

A meeting was arranged between Mr Swindells and an undisclosed number of plain-clothed officers posing as potential purchasers at Munich central train station, where the arrest took place.

"We have a special child pornography observation force which monitors the Internet and magazines for possible contacts. We received information from a contact in Germany that he was in Munich with material to sell," said a spokesman, who added that British officers had seized further material from premises belonging to Mr Swindells in England.

He was allegedly found in possession of a three-hour video tape showing boys aged between 11 and 14 performing sexually explicit acts, which he told police he had bought on the "black market" in London for fifty pounds. After spending three days in investigative custody in a cell at the central police station, Mr Swindells was due to back in Kent this morning.

"He has been freed by the arresting judge and there is nothing more we can do about it unfortunately," said the police spokesman, who added that the force had been working closely with colleagues in England. "It was a significant arrest for anything we can do to clamp down on this market is vital."

The senior prosecutor in charge of the case, Manfred Vick, said: "We are investigating Mr Swindells on suspicion of supplying pornographic material. He is a legally authorised representative, such as his lawyer, must return to court in Germany if he should be charged, although he doesn't have to appear in person. If he fails to turn up, his bail money will be taken." Herr Vick who said that the maximum penalty for the offence was a jail term. Kent police have not ruled out further action being taken by officers in the UK.



Swindells: due to fly home with bursar

## Doctor is accused of pursuing patients

By Shirley English

A DOCTOR went on trial yesterday accused of making unwelcome sexual advances towards eight women patients more than half his age.

Dr James Hammond, 52, from Erskine, Renfrewshire, allegedly abused his position by pursuing women who visited his surgery and offering to be their boyfriend. One 16-year-old who asked him for the contraceptive pill was distressed when he allegedly said he wanted to have sex with her in the consulting room.

It is alleged that he used consultations to make suggestive remarks and to ask patients out for a date. He is accused of alarming young women by either writing them personal letters, turning up at their homes uninvited, or touching them inappropriately during examinations.

Dr Hammond denies nine charges of breach of the peace against female patients, in which it is alleged that he conducted himself in a disorderly manner between October 1990 and April 1997.

Paisley Sheriff Court heard that he placed patients in a state of fear and alarm and twice made indecent suggestions, kissed one on the mouth and another on the face.

One witness yesterday told how she had visited Dr Hammond with her mother as a teenager between 1993-95. She felt uncomfortable when he began to compliment her on her looks and ask if she was dating anyone.

When she was 16 she asked for the contraceptive pill. She told the court: "I told him I was going on holiday and he asked if I had a boyfriend. When I said no, he told me, 'I want to be your first.' He said 'I'm being serious. I want to make love to you.'"

Too shocked to answer, the woman, now 20, said she got up to leave the room, and as she did so, he warned her not to tell anyone.

Another witness, a young single mother, claimed that Dr Hammond gave her his home telephone number and told her to ring him. Later, she said, he turned up on her doorstep and asked her out for a drink. The trial continues.

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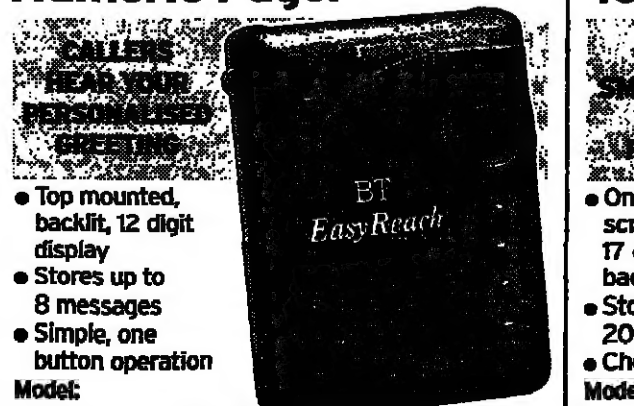
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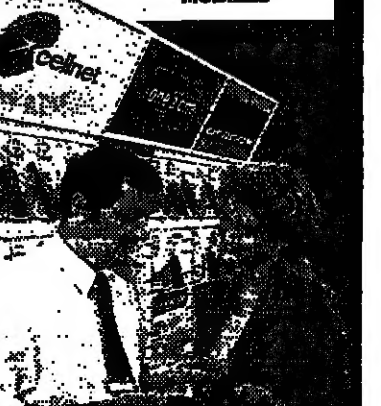
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## Midfield to striker: check

By Philip Delves Broughton

TO THE outsider, football may look like a game of huffing, puffing and fancy footwork. The cognoscenti, however, have always known it is also a game of complicated tactics and mental warfare. No surprise then that teenagers in South London

the potential benefits to footballers of chess at Kingsdale School in Dulwich, where the under-13 football squad have been given an electronic set.

If the tests are successful, chess sets could become a feature of football clubs nationwide. Only a couple of the

taught them the game. Since then, many have seen their football skills improve.

Ruben Lawrence, of the electronics firm Saitex, which is sponsoring the trials and the Kingsdale team, said: "The players are becoming aware of the consequences of certain moves and this is

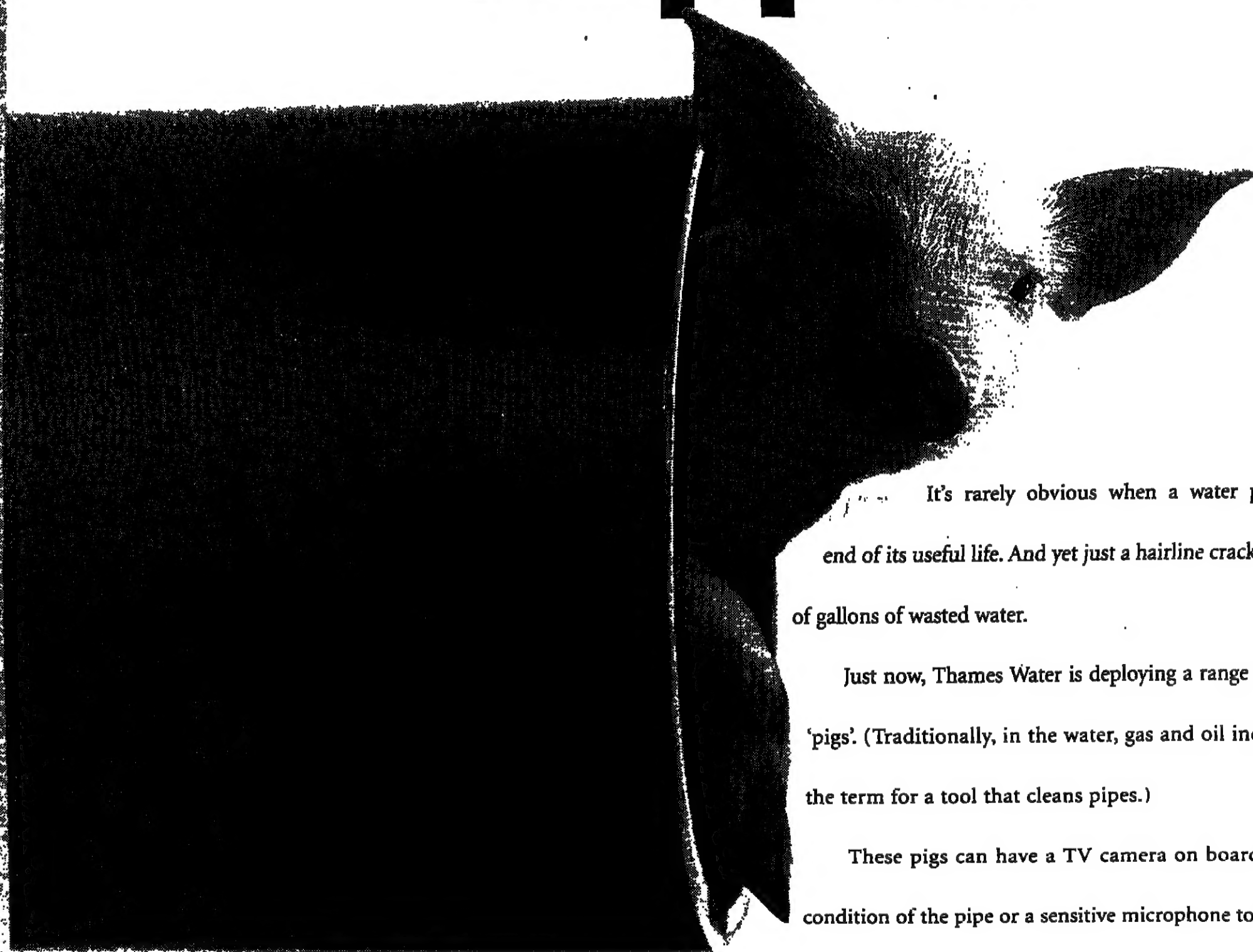
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A flow of good ideas.

THE TIMES THURSDAY MAY 28 1998  
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THE E-Z Test

0800

from 7.5 to 18 miles, there's a...  
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► Announcing the new...  
designed from the ground up to...  
increasing productivity. With...  
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# Drugs czar says Ecstasy test gives false confidence

A KIT that allows drug-users to test the purity of Ecstasy tablets was yesterday condemned as an "immoral money-making venture" by the head of the Government's anti-drugs campaign.

Promoters of the E-Z Test, which they hope to sell to clubgoers for £5, said that it would not encourage drug use but would help to protect those already taking the drug.

The Green Party, which has been selling the kits by mail-order since December, said they were part of a more "enlightened" approach to drug-taking.

But Keith Hellawell, leader of the Government's anti-drugs strategy, said that the "extremely crude" kits suggested that it was safe to take the drug. Even a pure Ecstasy

**Kit already sold by Green Party does not give full picture on safety, reports Adam Fresco**

tablet could kill, he said, so if the test showed that a tablet was not contaminated it could still be life-threatening. "Therefore, the kit is building a false confidence. It's immoral and just a crude measure for money-making," Mr Hellawell said. He is to ask the Government

how a Brighton-based company, called E-Z Test, obtained a licence to sell the kits. They were first sold in The Netherlands, where tablets are routinely tested in clubs. Users take a scraping of the tablet and mix it with a liquid before matching the results to a swatch of seven colours to identify the contents.

Dylan Trump, of E-Z Test, admitted that Ecstasy could contain harmful substances even if the test were negative.

"We are not saying Ecstasy is a safe drug; all drugs have a health risk. But we are providing people with more information than they had before."

"I do not know how it can be called immoral as it is a harm-reduction programme. It is all about individual choice." The equipment is sold over the Internet and by mail order.

The Green Party was "outraged" that the test had been described as immoral. Shane Collins, party spokesman on drugs, said: "The 'just say no' campaign is just not working. It should be just say 'know'. We need a more enlightened view about drug-taking."

A student died after taking the antidepressant Prozac and LSD. Christian Hurley had been taking Prozac for several months when he and some friends decided to use the hallucinogenic drug. He started convulsing and later died.

Colin McCormick, who conducted a post-mortem examination, told an inquest in Reading: "LSD itself is not toxic. There are approximately ten cases of adverse effects in people using Prozac and LSD."

Dr Joe Plim, East Berkshire Coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death on Mr Hurley, a psychology student at Reading University. The inquest was told that Mr Hurley had taken LSD before while on Prozac, with no ill-effect.

A 19-year-old friend of Mr Hurley has been charged with supplying LSD and cannabis.



The E-Z Test has a colour chart to check tablets



Tom Whittaker on his climb. A colleague said: "His dream has become reality"



## BBC crew 'disguised as women' held in Yemen

By CAROL MIDGLEY  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THREE male BBC journalists were being held by police in Yemen yesterday after claims that they were caught filming without authorisation and disguised as women in an area where kidnapping is rife.

The crew were arrested in the Yemeni capital Sana'a while making a film for BBC2's *Correspondent* series. All had journalist's visas and had been in Yemen ten days.

Their Yemeni guide said they had worn traditional black face and body veils to elude the police while interviewing the Bani Dhabyan tribe near Marib, 105 miles northeast of Sana'a.

It is understood they were refused permission to film in the area because the authorities feared for their safety.

Yemeni police identified the three as Robin Barnwell, a producer, Ragh Omar, a Jordan-based reporter, and Frank Smith, a cameraman/producer. A BBC spokesman said: "We are satisfied they are being looked after reasonably okay and we are optimistic they will be released soon."

The BBC could not confirm the reasons that led to their arrest but the spokesman said: "Whenever it is appropriate we always believe in honest dealing but sometimes it is appropriate to do things like secret filming."

Large parts of Yemen are lawless and ruled by armed tribesmen who kidnap foreigners to demand money or press for concessions from the Government. The crew spent a week with the Bani Dhabyan tribe for a programme on kidnapping, said the Yemeni guide, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Bani Dhabyan have carried out several kidnappings, including that of David Mitchell, a British teacher, his wife, Caroline, and their son, Ben, 14, near Marib, on April 16. They were released earlier this month.

Everest third attempt

## One foot in the Everest records

By TIM JONES

A ONE-FOOTED Welshman yesterday entered the record books when he became the first amputee to scale Everest.

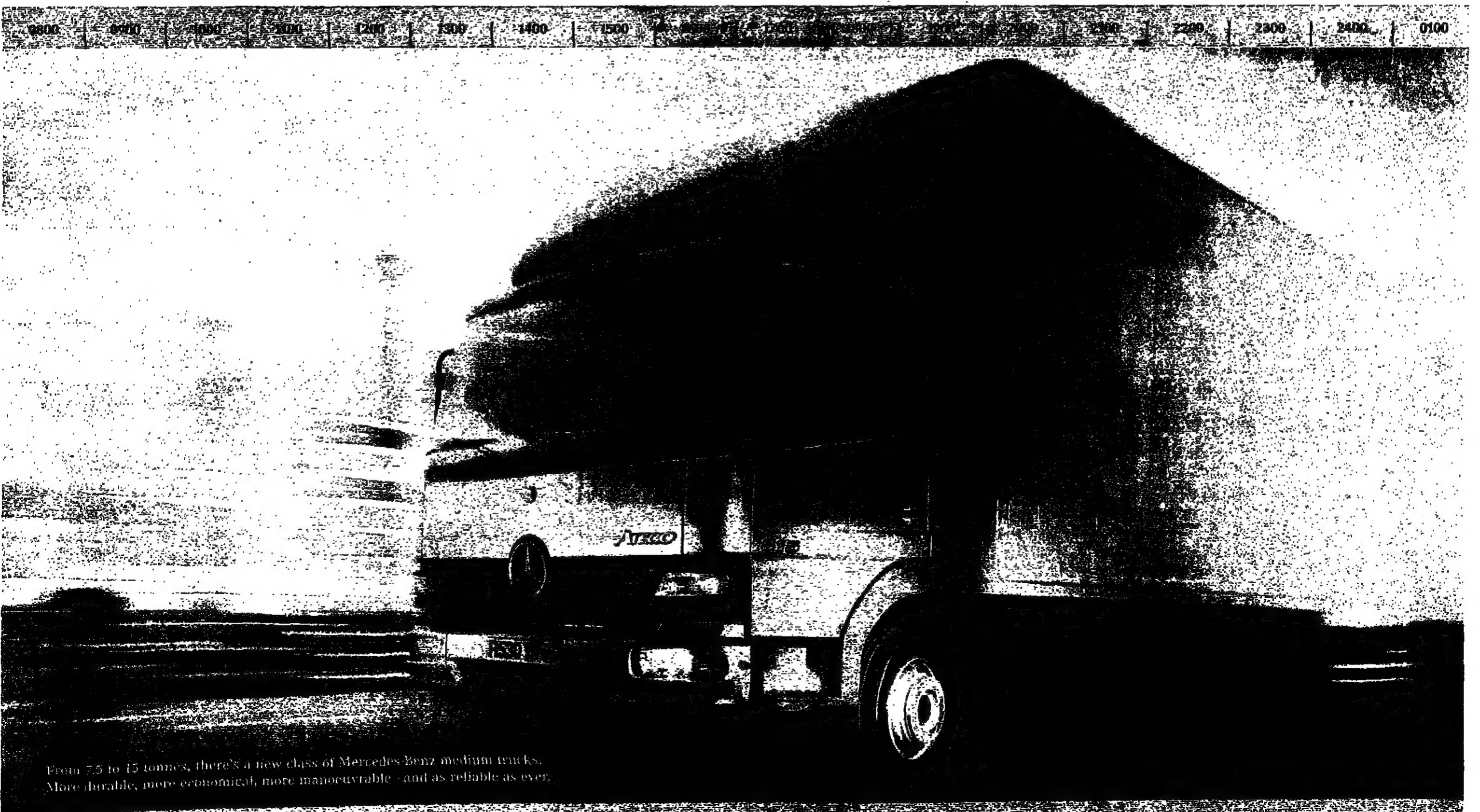
More than 19 years after losing his right foot in a car accident, a delighted Tom Whittaker reached the 29,028 ft summit after a three-day climb at the age of 49. It was his third attempt.

Angela Hawse, a member of the team, speaking from base camp, said: "His dream has become a reality. It proves that if you set your mind to it, you can accomplish anything."

Mr Whittaker, from Porthmadoc, in Carmarfon and Merioneth, lectures on outdoor activities at Prescott College, Arizona. He has been climbing mountains for 25 years. In 1989 he managed to reach 24,000 ft on Everest. Six years later, he had to retreat when his oxygen supplies ran low at 27,500 ft. Before attempting the latest challenge he trained in the foothills for two months.

Married with a daughter aged six, he hopes his achievement will inspire other physically impaired people and help to change attitudes towards disability.

News of his achievement comes just before tomorrow's 45th anniversary of the first ascent of Everest, by Hillary and Tensing.



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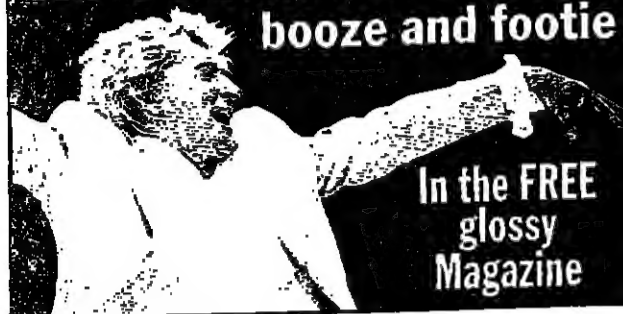
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**PRINCE  
CHARLES****Rod Stewart on birds,  
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glossy  
MagazineGirl, 5, says  
two boys  
raped her  
in cemetery

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD girl told a court yesterday that she was raped when she went out to play with two 12-year-old boys on a Sunday afternoon.

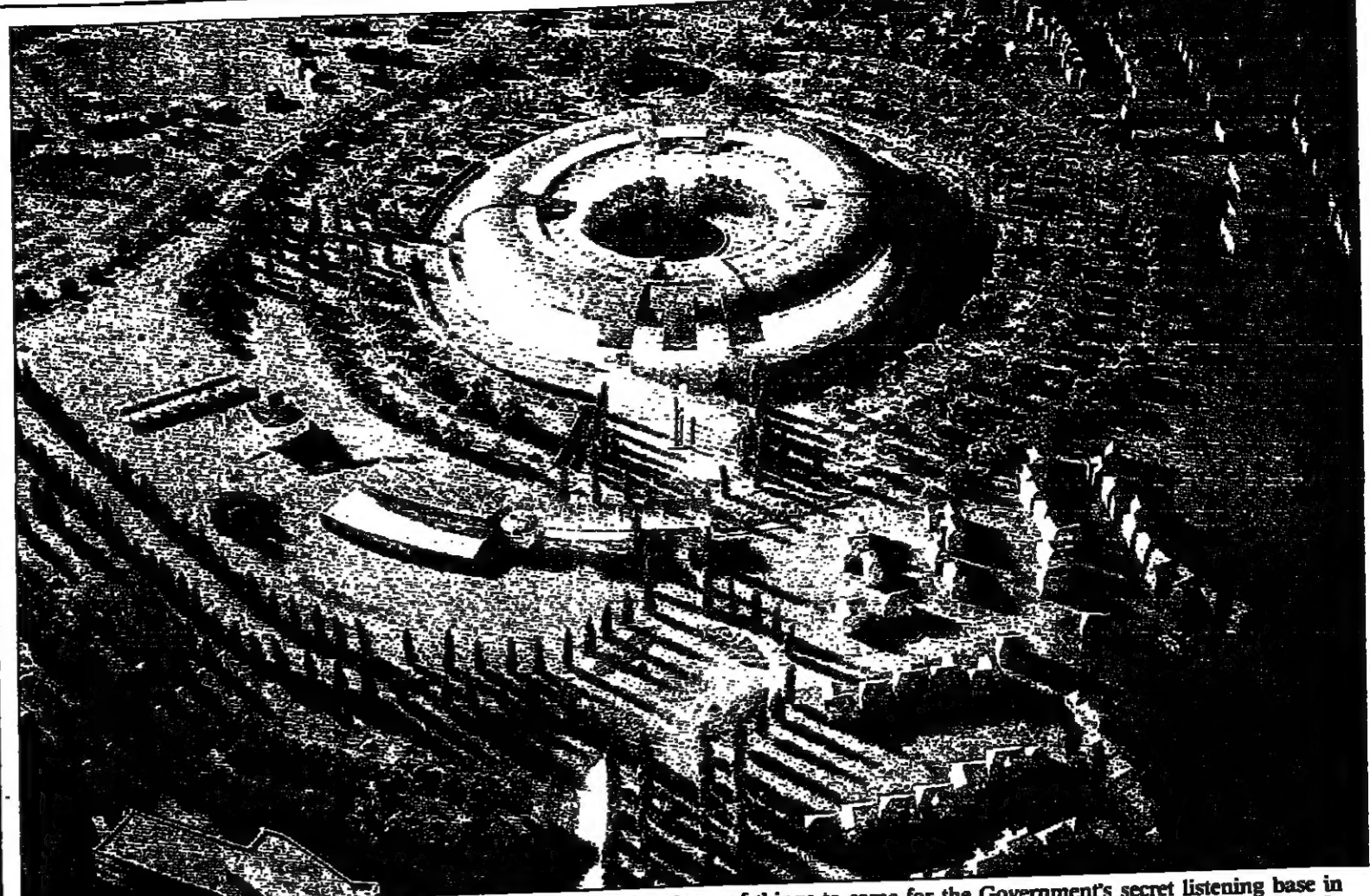
The judge and barristers at Leeds Crown Court took off their wigs as the girl gave evidence via a video link.

She told how she was taken to Harehills Cemetery in Leeds last September when the boys, her 12-year-old uncle with whom she lived and another 12-year-old, took it in turns to have sex with her.

The girl's uncle, now 13, has admitted indecent assault. The other boy, still 12, denies rape.

Nicholas Campbell, for the prosecution, told the jury that the girl kicked and screamed as the 12-year-old raped her. The boy had then threatened to burn the clothes of the girl's uncle if he did not also have sex with her. After the uncle had sex with her, the 12-year-old raped her again.

In a videotape interview, the girl said she thought the boys were going to kill her. The hearing continues.



Eye spy: an artist's impression of the building that may be the shape of things to come for the Government's secret listening base in Gloucestershire. Four firms want to build the new GCHQ in Gloucestershire and the latest design will be considered by the local council in July

BT faces  
inquiry into  
directory  
billing

BY MARK HENDERSON

BRITISH Telecom is facing an Ofcom investigation into a secret change to directory inquiry billing that could cost callers thousands of pounds a year.

Directory Enquiries operators have been ordered to stop offering to refund callers who dial the service in error, instead giving the money back only if it is asked for. Observers believe that thousands of customers will fail to claim the refund, boosting the company's profits at the expense of users.

BT made nearly £86 a second in profit during the first three months of this year.

The change was not announced publicly and came to light only when an internal memo was leaked by a disgruntled operator. In it BT bosses draw attention to the huge sums that could be saved if the number of 35p domestic inquiry refunds and 80p rebates for the international service could be reduced.

"Although each individual credit represents only a small amount, BT currently processes an awful lot," the memo said. "A large number of small amounts can make a big saving. Moreover, handling credits involves significant manual intervention and is an expensive operation."

The telecommunications regulator Ofcom said it would seek an explanation from BT.

A BT spokesman said the new system was designed to make operators more efficient and increase the number of calls they could handle. Operators would not quibble with customers' requests for refunds, he said.

Under old procedures, customers who rang the 192 domestic Directory Enquiries line seeking an international number would automatically

be told they could have a refund if they called the 153 international service, and vice versa. Now customers can get their money back only if they specifically ask.

The operator who leaked the new guidelines said BT staff were upset that customers would be hoodwinked out of money they were entitled to have back. "What will happen is that when people get their next bill they will notice an odd 35p or 80p on it which they would not have had before," the operator said.

"It may not sound like much. But if you think about the number of operators and exchanges there are working round the clock it will add up to thousands a year at least. "Dialling 192 instead of 153, or the other way round, is not an uncommon mistake. I know one operator who approved £18 worth of such credits on one shift alone."

The National Communications Union said: "This is just a penny-pinching thing which will lose the company friends."

The National Consumer Council added: "This is unacceptable. They are making enough money without this. They should tell people what they are doing. It makes you wonder what else they do that people don't find out about."

Some 625 million calls a year are made to Directory Enquiries at a cost to consumers of £115 million. In February, BT increased the cost of a call to the domestic service by 40 per cent from 25p to 35p, and the cost of an international inquiry rose from 60p to 80p. The company said the service lost £21 million last year.

Call charges were first introduced for the services in 1991, though they were reduced in 1994. Calls remain free from public telephones.

Lawrence detective  
unaware of law

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE detective who led the investigation into the killing of Stephen Lawrence said yesterday that he had not realised he could arrest key suspects as soon as he had "reasonable" grounds.

Detective Superintendent Brian Weeden, who led the inquiry for 18 months and who had investigated other murders, told the Lawrence inquiry that he thought he had to wait for firm evidence of guilt. He also had not known that a potential witness was named to a detective early after the murder of the black student in Eltham, southeast London, in 1993.

Michael Mansfield, QC, for the Lawrence family, asked him: "Do you find that it is rather disturbing that it has taken you all this time to

recognise a basic tenet of criminal law?" Mr Weeden, now retired, responded: "I think it is regrettable."

Mr Weeden said suspects could have been arrested earlier but for his initial ignorance concerning a key witness. A police informant, referred to as Grant, told one of Mr Weeden's officers soon after the murder that a 17-year-old, referred to as B, saw the killing from a passing bus and could identify some of the suspects.

When told this by Mr Mansfield, Mr Weeden said: "I am staggered."

Mr Weeden added that the evidence of B as well as that of another witness, K, would have provided him with the evidence he wanted to arrest "within hours".

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Two girls in traditional Japanese clothing

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A record of consistent

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# Discord kept to a minimum in the land of song

INSIDE Cardiff Castle, Midori Matsui listened with satisfaction to the results of weeks of painstaking tuition. "Very good," she declared.

Miss Matsui has been teaching a massed male voice choir to sing the Japanese national anthem for the arrival of the Emperor and Empress on the second day of their state visit to Britain. She arrived from Tokyo exactly 25 years ago to help to set up the first Japanese company in South Wales, and still has not gone home.

The result was pronounced a success and the Empress, who is said to have a few words of Welsh and to be learning the harp, applauded with such warmth as imperial protocol allows.

After Tuesday's protests in The Mall, the Imperial couple flew to Wales to see a more positive side of Anglo-Japanese relations. Since 1973, 54 Japanese companies have invested £1.5 billion in Wales and created 17,000 jobs. South Wales now makes half of all the Japanese colour televisions in Britain and four fifths of the microwave ovens.

However, there was still a reminder of the era the Japanese would so like to forget. About 30 veterans, some of them former Far East prison-

**People of Wales show respect for Emperor whose country bolsters economy, says Alan Hamilton**

ers of war, but an equal number from the Eighth Army who were more concerned with defeating Rommel, gathered at the castle gate, turned their backs and booed as the imperial Rolls swept in.

The small gathering provided its own touching moment. Monica Yabsley, 72, from Tredegar, arrived to protest wearing on her lapel the labour camp badge of her late husband, Ray, bearing his prison number, 12813. It was spotted by another veteran, Glyn Thomas, 76, from Neath. "Good God," Mr Thomas exclaimed, "I was 12812. I remember Ray well." The couple, who had never met, exchanged hugs, a few tears and memories of a prison camp in Java to which 1,000 men were assigned and from

which only 270 survived. Mrs Yabsley disclosed that her 26-year-old grandson teaches English in Japan. "I don't know what my husband would have thought of that. He would probably have chopped the boy's legs off before he got on the plane." She laughed, but it was only just a joke.

Before he left Japan, the Emperor expressed a wish to *The Times* to meet ordinary British people. Yesterday was the closest he is likely to come during his four-day visit: a carefully chosen audience of British managers working for Japanese companies and a fair gathering of the 1,200-strong Japanese community in Wales, with the Prince of Wales and Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, as hosts.

Miss Matsui, a director of Takiron UK, the pioneering company that went to the village of Bedwas to make plastic building panels, spoke well of her 30-strong workforce. "The Welsh people are very warm-hearted and they are very diligent. They do not try to sleep on the night shift, which some workers will do even in Japan."

Ray Adams, general manager of Yajima, a company at Ebbw Vale that makes the steel chassis for Sony televisions, was born and bred in the Rhondda. "If it had not been for the Japanese, there would have been mass migration out of the Valleys by now. I know about the past but every country, and every company I have ever worked for, has had a dark side. The Japanese had a dark era, but time moves on."

When the Emperor, as Crown Prince Akihito, last visited Wales in 1976, he donned overalls and helmet to go underground at Deep Navigation Colliery in the Rhondda. That pit, like every other in Wales, has gone.

The imperial couple, with the Prince of Wales at their



Empress Michiko taking the hand of a Japanese girl at Cardiff Castle yesterday

side, watched a display of Welsh singing and dancing and the Empress was presented with a posy by two small children, one in a tall Welsh hat and the other in a tiny kimono. Other well-dressed children waved paper flags of the Welsh dragon and the rising sun.

Lord Elis-Thomas, chairman of the Welsh Language Board, engaged the Emperor in a lengthy discussion about the Welsh tongue. "They have an increasing interest in Celtic literature in Japan," he explained later. "The Japanese like working in a community-oriented climate. That's why they come to Wales."

Among young Japanese living in Cardiff, opinion was divided on the veterans' demand for an apology. Yoko Yoshinari, 18, said: "We are very sorry for what happened in that period. The Emperor has a responsibility to his country and to the world, so I believe he should apologise."

But Michiko Hamaguchi, 19, also standing in line to see her Emperor for the first time, said: "If he apologises, I am not sure that people will forgive anyway. It has been more than 50 years and now people are sharing the products made by the Japanese. We have to move on."

With the Welsh Secretary as

their host, the imperial couple lunched in the castle on Telford smoked salmon, Brecon venison, Welsh barra brigh (fruit bread) mousse and Welsh rhubarb ice cream. It was the second time in two days that the couple had been fed rhubarb.

They left with the gifts of a carved limewood Welsh dragon and a loving spoon symbolically carved with lotuses and daffodils. At the Empress's specific request, the male voice choir sang them out with *We'll Keep A Welcome in the Hillsides*. They did not need Miss Matsui's tuition for that, although, of course, she knows the words.

## Film depicts Japan as the victim of war

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

A FILM portraying Japan as a victim in the Second World War has caused outrage in countries that lost millions of people during the Japanese occupation.

Prime Minister Hidetoshi Tojo, the Japanese Prime Minister tried and executed in 1948 by the Allies for war crimes, as a heroic samurai and martyr. It portrays Japan's invasion of Asian countries as a noble crusade to liberate them from European control.

Moreover, it credits Japan with a magnified role in freeing India from the yoke of British colonialism, prompting the Indian Government to disassociate itself from the film.

The film, from one of Japan's major studios, was released at the weekend, and sparked outrage from neighbouring countries. "Hideki Tojo was the chief criminal of that war of aggression," a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "We feel shocked and indignant that some people in Japan produced such a movie to whitewash aggression and sing the praises of Hideki Tojo."

North Korea also condemned the film as a "shameless" attempt to embellish Japanese militarism.

In Japan the film has generated little criticism, apart from a protest by the trade union of the film company, Toei, which produced it. It has been strongly endorsed by prominent rightwingers in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, including a number of former Cabinet ministers.

The film, sponsored by a wealthy Japanese businessman, is part of a growing nationalist movement to reinterpret Japan's past and remove the stigma of aggressor. Powerful conservative lobbies, angry at official statements of remorse made

by Japanese leaders to China, Korea and Britain, are campaigning for an end to apologies about the war.

The film focuses on the International Military Tribunal for the Far East that tried 28 Japanese defendants, including Tojo, for war crimes. One of the most contentious episodes seeks to undermine claims that the Japanese Army went on an infamous rampage of rape and killing in Nanking in 1937. China says as many as 300,000 civilians were killed in the massacre, among the tens of millions who died in Japan's 1931-45 occupation.

But in scenes of the trial the film sets out to discredit the evidence of an eyewitness, insinuating that hardly any civilians died and that Japan was the victim of malicious lies. This echoes the line taken by some conservative Japanese politicians and scholars, who believe that the massacre was fabricated.

The film-makers say that their aim is to set the record straight and demonstrate that Japan was unfairly cast as the villain in the war. "Americans have forced upon us a one-sided view of history," Hideaki Kase, a historian who conceived and helped to produce the film, said.



Tojo: executed in 1948 for war crimes



Two girls in national dress about to meet the Emperor

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# Heads vote to defy ministers on reading goals

John O'Leary reports from the NAHT conference on teachers' fears that literacy targets may be unrealistic

HEAD teachers were told yesterday to set their own goals for improved reading levels if they believed imposed targets were unrealistic.

The Government wants to ensure that 80 per cent of 11-year-olds reach their expected level of literacy by 2002, compared with the current 63 per cent. Every primary is being set a target by its local authority this term.

But delegates to the annual conference of the National Association of Head Teachers in Eastbourne yesterday voted unanimously to reject the "cascading" of targets from ministers to schools.

Ministers have given authorities the power to take control of schools which are falling behind their required levels of improvement. However, some head teachers and governors have already warned education authorities that they will ignore targets that fail to reflect the capabilities of individual year groups.

Michael Brookes, a member of the NAHT's executive and head teacher of Sherwood Junior School, in Warsop,



Brookes: "figures being plucked from the air"

Nottinghamshire, told the conference that figures were being "plucked from the air" to fulfil the Government's commitment, on which David Blunkett has staked his reputation.

Mr Brookes added: "We are advising our members that if targets are unrealistic, they shouldn't be bullied into accepting them, but just say no."

Brian McNutt, the head of Eastway Primary School, in

the Wirral, accused the Government of adopting a "big stick" approach.

"To achieve these standards, will schools be turned into exam factories, just simply machines to get us through the tests?" he asked.

The first targets will apply to the English results of 11-year-olds in 2000. Numeracy targets for the age group are expected to be set next year, and the Department for Education and Employment has told the teaching unions to expect a similar regime in secondary schools, based on GCSE results.

David Hart, the NAHT's general secretary, said secondary head teachers did not believe that local authorities had the necessary expertise to set accurate targets for their schools. There would be an "explosion of anger" if figures were imposed, he said.

Mr Hart said: "You cannot blame heads when they are trying to set targets for 2000 and beyond for wanting to be extremely cautious. If they don't meet them, they are going to be caned by govern-



Head teachers, backed by David Hart, below, voted to set their own targets

nors, by Ofsted, and the Government."

However, Stephen Byers, the School Standards Minister, said the Government's target was reasonable and realistic. "Surely it is not unreasonable to expect that in four years' time, four out of five 11-year-olds will have reached the level of literacy expected of them?"

Mr Byers said the Government had invested £57.5 mil-

lion in its literacy strategy. Ministers were confident that the majority of head teachers would support the initiative.

Primary schools which make insufficient progress towards their targets by 2000 risk extra inspections by Ofsted, and warning letters from their local authorities. If they still do not improve, their authority will be able to appoint new governors and finally take back control of the school.

Most authorities have begun the process of setting targets for 11-year-olds, and some have volunteered to do the same for seven-year-olds.

Susan Taylor, head teacher of the Ridgeway Infants School, in Derby, said: "We are being asked to set targets for children who have been barely born. We will set our own targets, based on children's development, not national tests."



## Call for law to prevent governors interfering

By JOHN O'LEARY

HEAD teachers demanded new legislation yesterday to protect them from interfering governors.

Confusion over the responsibilities and duties of school governors was resulting in hundreds of disputes each year, the conference was told. Many governors had no training but set themselves up in a managerial role.

Rowie Shaw, the association's director of professional services, told delegates that most governors were "absolutely fantastic" and enjoyed a good relationship with head teachers. But she added: "We get the occasional governor from hell who turns up at school unannounced and wanders into classrooms or dominates meetings with their own children's problems or some new idea he has seen on TV."

Tony Riley, the Birmingham branch secretary, said: "We had one governor who walked round school with a bunch of keys, another who demanded to countersign every order and one who sat in the car park and timed staff arriving and departing."

David Hart, the general secretary, said he hoped the School Standards Bill would clarify responsibilities. Governors should restrict themselves to making policy and setting strategy, leaving head teachers to manage, he said.

## Nurses thanked for blood money

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE brother of the murdered Australian nurse, Yvonne Gilford, last night thanked the two British women convicted in connection with her murder for releasing the £750,000 "blood money" due to him.

Frank Gilford said that he was looking forward to getting back to a normal life. "There've been no winners in all this," he said yesterday from his home in Jamestown, South Australia.

"We've all suffered — my family and the families of Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan," he added. "I would like to thank them for releasing the money and I hope that they and their families and we can get on with our lives and leave all this behind us."

The money, which Mr Gilford agreed to accept in exchange for waiving the death penalty on Parry, amounts to Aus\$1.7 million and will be presented at a ceremony in Adelaide, Australian politicians who have

supported Mr Gilford, including the Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, are planning to attend the presentation.

Mr Gilford's solicitor, John Keen, last night said that all the necessary documentation had been received from Saudi Arabia and Britain. But it could still be a few days before the sum is given to Mr Gilford.

Mr Gilford has promised to donate Aus\$1 million to the Women and Children's Hospital in Adelaide, for a special day surgery unit in honour of his sister. Most of the remainder will go towards his legal fees. Mr Gilford has said that he will keep Aus\$50,000 to cover his expenses.

Earlier this week Parry's Saudi lawyer, Salah al-Hejailan, advised her and McLauchlan to withhold the money and sue Mr Gilford for causing her mental anguish. But after pressure from Mr Downer, the two nurses relented.

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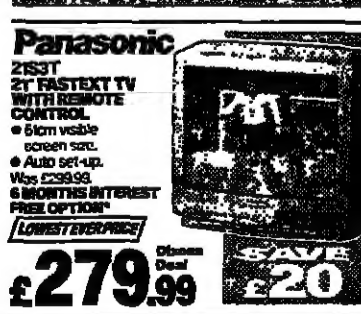


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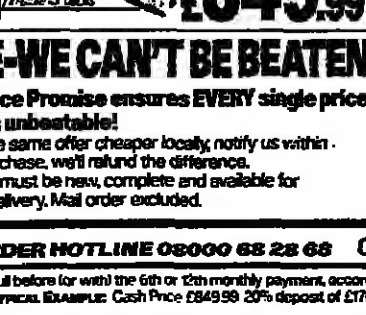


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# Rural charter sends out farm SOS

## Lawyers hunt for BSE clues in files of Whitehall

By VALERIE ELLIOTT  
WHITEHALL EDITOR

FARMERS and agricultural businesses yesterday appealed to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor for urgent action to save the rural economy from collapse.

They signed a Rural Charter urging the Government to "acknowledge the severity of the crisis affecting rural Britain and act to remedy it". Top of their demands were lower interest rates and a cut in the value of the pound to help their overseas trade.

There was some good news, however, from the European Commission which announced the first relaxation of the EU ban on beef exports imposed more than two years ago because of "mad cow"

Michael Hornsby finds beef export breakthrough overshadowed by fears of crisis

disease. The Commission said that beef exports could resume from Northern Ireland next Monday.

Ben Gill, president of the National Farmers' Union, said at the launch of the Rural Charter that farm incomes had fallen almost 50 per cent in 1997 and that agricultural investment was expected to fall 37 per cent this year. "Uncertainty about the future means that farmers are very reluctant to invest even if they have the money to do so," he said. "I will be seeking an urgent meeting with the Chancellor."

George Lyon, president of the

Scottish branch of the union, said that 150,000 jobs were at stake in Scotland. "We have an extremely depressed situation with bankruptcies and repossession. Investment is zero. The strength of sterling lies at the heart of it."

Copies of the charter, signed by 25 farming and agricultural groups, were sent to the Deputy Prime Minister, the President of the Board of Trade, the Scottish Secretary, the Welsh Secretary, and the Governor of the Bank of England. Signatories included slaughterhouse representatives, livestock hauliers, agro-

chemical suppliers and the veterinary profession.

Jake Vowles, director-general of the Agriculture Engineers Association, representing farm machinery suppliers, said that farmers' difficulties were having a severe knock-on effect. "So far this year we have seen a 46 per cent drop in tractor sales in Britain over the same period of 1997. We are looking at sales of fewer than 10,000 for the whole of this year," he said.

Richard Cracknell, president of the Federation of Fresh Meat Wholesalers, said the number of

cattle being slaughtered for human consumption was 25 to 30 per cent down because of BSE restrictions and the export ban. "The strong pound means that we are also losing markets for things that we can export, such as lamb and pork."

James Paice, Conservative agriculture spokesman, said the Government had "treated farming and rural Britain with contempt".

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, accepted that farmers were having a hard time but said that the health of the rural economy no longer depended on farming

alone. "Overall, farm incomes have been in decline for almost two decades, apart from a small and temporary arrest in the early 1990s," he told BBC Radio 4's Today. "But I do not accept that everyone in the countryside is getting very much poorer. Rural unemployment fell in the last 12 months by 4 per cent."

Dr Cunningham described the resumption of beef exports from Northern Ireland as "excellent news". The ban has been lifted because 97 per cent of beef herds in the Province have never had a case of BSE and there is a computerised cattle monitoring system.

Leading article, page 23

## Falling prices force closure of livestock market after 70 years

Peter Foster listens to farmers at Banbury blaming supermarkets for driving auctioneers out of business

FARMERS have been buying and selling livestock at Banbury market every Wednesday and Thursday for more than 70 years. Yesterday it was announced that the market will close next week with the loss of 100 jobs.

The owners, Midland Marts Group, say they were left with no choice after the BSE crisis sent beef prices to the floor and farmers turned more and more to arable production.

Jim Watson, the chairman, said it was the hardest decision of his life. He started work at Banbury as a trainee

auctioneer more than 40 years ago. However, he had no other option: the numbers were not adding up. "We will be closing next Thursday," he said. "Stock turnover has been decimated by the drift into arable farming and repercussions of BSE and we do not see any prospect of prices recovering significantly in the short term."

Several hundred farmers were bemused by another setback in what has become a decade of hard knocks. One muttered that it was like going to a funeral. The wake was in full progress in the

Stockyard Inn by lunchtime over pints of beer and hot beef rolls described by barmaid described as "mooring rare".

The fall in beef prices was clear to see yesterday as the auctioneers used all their tricks to get farmers to part with their money. Time and again Ian Smethurst promised that "there's value left in this one, gentlemen". Mostly they did not agree.

For Alan Cockburn, who farms 500 acres near Kenilworth in Warwickshire, yesterday was a double blow. He went to Banbury to sell Romeo, his one-ton Simmental bull after deciding he could no longer afford to keep his beef herd.

With his daughter Philippa, 12, Mr Cockburn made regular visits to the holding pens to keep Romeo calm before the sale. Described by the auctioneer as a "guaranteed stock getter", Romeo fetched 450 guineas. It had cost £1,200 two years ago.

The farmer confessed he was sad to see the beast go. "I shall probably go home and say 'where art thou?' for the rest of the day. I didn't have many cattle even before BSE but I kept them because they're such lovely animals.



Business was brisk at Banbury cattle market 50 years ago, with plenty of interest around the sale ring

But with prices as they are now, I can't afford to keep them even as a hobby. I'll take up golf, it's cheaper."

Not everyone was selling. Denise Badger and her husband, John, picked up six Friesian steers at £230 a head for their 100-acre grassland farm on the other side of Stratford-upon-Avon. Mrs

Badger said the news of Banbury's closure, which she heard on BBC Radio's Farming Today, would leave a large hole in many farmers' lives. "My father-in-law has been coming here since before the war," she said. "Farming can be a lonely, isolated life and market day is a chance for everyone to catch up, find

out what's going on and have a little moral support."

Back in the Stockyard Inn, the farmers were blaming the big supermarkets for holding down prices and driving auctioneers out of business. "They want total control," one of them said. "When all the livestock markets are gone, supermarkets will be able to

dictate any price they like."

As the final lots were sold, an air of despondency settled over the bar. Banbury's closure came as a particular shock as it is one of the largest livestock markets in Europe. "In market terms it's like the end of Manchester United," one said. "If Banbury can't survive, then who can?"



Closure was the hardest decision of Jim Watson's life

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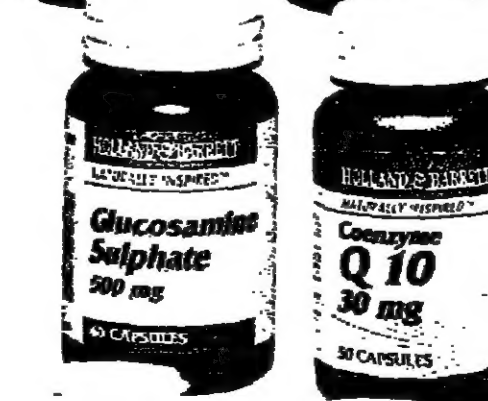
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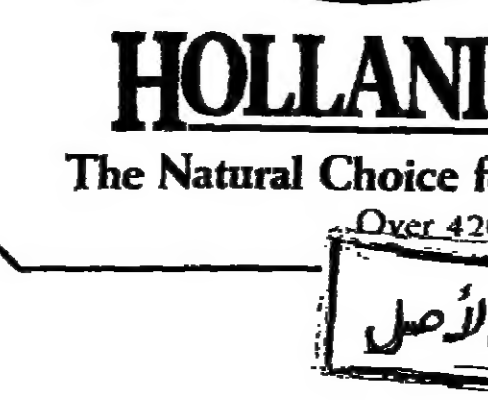
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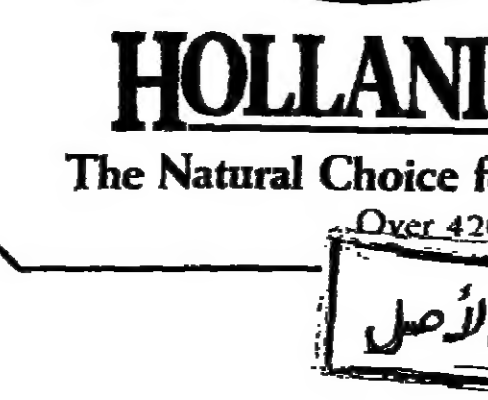
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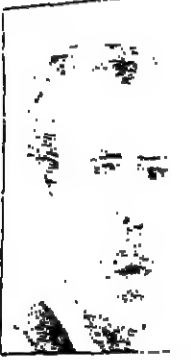
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# Musicians lose £40m in 'theft' on Internet

Carol Midgley hears appeals for enforcement of the copyright law

CLONING music tracks from the Internet is costing writers and publishers an estimated £40 million a year and posing a major threat to the future of the British music industry, it was claimed yesterday.

British Music Rights, an organisation set up to protect musicians, composers and publishers, called for a government task force to enforce copyright law and make Internet suppliers and telecoms companies responsible for infringements on their equipment. It also demanded that a compulsory hour of music tuition per week be introduced in all schools to nurture new talent.

The launch of BMR's manifesto was attended by Sir George Martin, the producer who signed the Beatles to EMI in 1962, Melvyn Bragg, Janet Street-Porter and leading industry figures.

BMR said the unauthorised manufacture of compact discs was already at an unprecedented level and could eventually "overwhelm" the legitimate music business. Thanks to digital technology, it is possible to download albums from MP3 files on the Internet and transfer them to a recordable CD with the same quality of sound. The procedure costs little more than the price of a local telephone call. Fans often place albums on Websites for distribution to other fans. MP3 files are Internet files with an extremely high quality: compression standard that fit into about a tenth of the usual space.

A pirate version of an album by the pop group Garbage was played at yesterday's launch to illustrate the high quality of the "stolen" CDs. "A digital copy is the same thing as the original," a spokesman said. "It is a clone rather than a copy as there is no degradation in the transfer."

Andy Heath, a music publisher, said the MP3 sites should be closed down to prevent further "thefts".

The BMR said it had been estimated that about 26,000 Internet sites used music writers' work illegally, for which the composers and performers were not being paid.

Ashley Slater, of the band Freakpower, told the launch at the Festival Hall in London that his only real income came from royalties paid each time one of his tracks was played on radio. Slater, who had a number one hit with *Tune In Turn On Cop*, said: "It's virtually impossible to earn money through touring. If my copyright isn't protected I go out, and I'm just one of tens of thousands of musicians who rely on that. When that happens another little twinkly light in the Cool Britannia sky goes out."

William Booth, of Sony Music, said: "My company invests millions of pounds each year in new writing talent and new composers and to recover that money we need to be paid. If we don't get paid because it goes on the Internet we can't continue to make that investment in new talent and we can't continue to pay people to collect money for those new composers."

Gavin Robertson, of the Music Alliance, said enthusiasts could put music on the Internet with the use of a simple-to-use computer program costing £15. With increasingly sophisticated systems, browsers at the other end could download near-CD quality versions of songs which could be stored on recordable discs.

Sir George Martin spoke out against the "stupid move" of making music only an optional part of the school curriculum. "Music is so important for children," he said. "It focuses the mind, makes them more disciplined and better at maths and computing." He was particularly concerned about the future of classical music because orchestras were under-subsidised. "Can you imagine Nigel Kennedy not being given a violin to play? If he had not been we would not have seen a great violinist."

"In the bad old days of Thatcher it wasn't considered very important but now we have high hopes of this Government valuing music more. Music earns more for this country than the steel industry."



Sir George Martin, Janet Street-Porter and Melvyn Bragg at the Festival Hall for the launch of the British Music Rights manifesto

## Street lamps dim hopes of fast Net access

By Nick Nuttall  
TECHNOLOGY  
CORRESPONDENT

A PIONEERING scheme to deliver faster Internet access using the power supply that serves street lamps has hit a snag. Communications experts have found that the lamp-posts act as radio masts, filling the airwaves with data from the World Wide Web.

The electricity company Norweb hit on the idea after realising that street lights shared the same power supply as cables carrying domestic computer links. The system, which transfers data along electricity cables and between substations, is 20 times faster than modems used by most "surfers" of the Net. Using the electricity mains also frees local telephone lines.

Experts fear, however, that the technology could cause serious problems for other users of the high-frequency radio spectrum, including the BBC World Service, the Civil Aviation Authority and GCHQ.

Norweb failed to realise that street lights are ideal telecommunications masts, capable of broadcasting the Internet data to the surrounding area at between 2 and 10 megahertz. Apart from swamping the radio spectrum, the system could allow eavesdropping.

Nick Long, an engineer, told *New Scientist*: "If you set out to design radio aerials to fit with this system, they would look like street lamps. They are just the right vertical length of conductor."

The Department of Trade and Industry's radio communications agency has been called in to mediate between air-wave users and Norweb. A GCHQ spokeswoman told the magazine: "We are trying to gauge the level of risk."

John Seddon, operations director at Norweb, said: "The technology that will be deployed in volume will be at low power levels in comparison to the general radio noise already out there."

## Sacked council official 'got trapped in porn Website'

By Paul Wilkinson



Parr: breached code

A SENIOR council official sacked for viewing pornography on the Internet at work claimed he had found the Website by mistake and did not know how to escape from it.

Ian Parr, a senior housing accounts officer, told an industrial tribunal that he believed his offences were not serious enough to warrant dismissal by Derwent District Council. Mr Parr, 37, who had been employed by the council in north-west Durham, for 17 years, had an exemplary disciplinary record. He was one of three officers alleged by the council to have viewed pornography on their office computers.

Mr Parr, from Consett, Co Durham, told the tribunal in Newcastle upon Tyne that he had come across a pornographic site, Smutlands, when it was cross-referenced from a sports site he was visiting. He said: "I was in a sports site which was linked to a sexually explicit site. I tried to find a link back to sport but I became trapped in the site and had to switch the PC off. This startled me and I gave up surfing the Net."

The tribunal was told that a computer activity monitoring system used by the council recorded five hours of access by Mr Parr during a three-day period between December 16 and 18 last year. One and a half hours had been spent accessing sexually explicit sites.


Mr Parr explained that he could not believe the case with which pornography could be viewed and that he went on to access more sites because as a father he was concerned about how easy it would be for children to view pornography on the Internet. He said: "I admit looking at porn. I was working on how I could get into the system so I could tell other people of the dangers to children."

Paul Cape, for the council, showed the tribunal a list of the sites Mr Parr had accessed from his PC. They showed he had visited at least five sites that Mr Cape said were of a nature that would not be found on page three of a popular newspaper. Mr Parr was suspended on full pay last December after he admitted viewing pornography and was dismissed in January.

Mike Clarke, the council's director of community services, told the hearing: "Mr Parr was a senior officer with a significant amount of responsibility who had been employed with the council for a long time. I came to the conclusion the evidence before me was that he had breached the officers' code of conduct by misusing equipment."

The tribunal reserved judgment. A tribunal involving the second officer, Adrian Flanagan, a tax and debt recovery manager who was dismissed for similar offences, is expected to take place later this year. The third officer, Alan Gerson, the head of housing management, resigned.

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# Scientists turn clock forward on Aboriginal life

CLAIMS that the Aborigines were in Australia more than 100,000 years ago were based on faulty dating of the sediments where artefacts were found, according to scientists.

They found that Aboriginal tools and nearby rock carvings at Jirnmium in the Northern Territory are comparatively recent. Dr Richard Roberts of La Trobe University in Melbourne said: "It's definitely not a very ancient occupation site. It's no more than 10,000 years old."

"Probably human occupation at that site started 6,000 or 7,000 years ago."

The original claims, which dated the settlement at 116,000 to 176,000 years old, and the rock art at 50,000 to 70,000 years, caused a sensation when they were made two years ago because they threw into doubt theories about how the world was peopled.

The best-established, the "out-of-Africa" hypothesis, holds that modern man evolved in Africa about 100,000 years ago and then spread across the world. If so, Australia would not have been populated before 60,000 years ago. The original dates also

**Claims that Australia has been occupied for 100,000 years are wrong, says Nigel Hawkes**

implied that the Aborigines were the first artists, pre-dating the cave painters of Europe by thousands of years. But the claims, published in *Antiquity*, were always treated with scepticism by other archaeologists.

The error appears to have arisen from samples of sand used in thermoluminescence dating, a technique that can measure when a grain of sand was buried. The method depends on the grains having been exposed to sunlight before burial to "set the clock" and in this case some of the grains appear to have been insufficiently exposed.

Dr Roberts and colleagues used a slightly different tech-

nique and combined it with radioactive carbon dating of charcoal fragments from the site.

Both methods produce consistent dates and show that the site is no older than 22,000 years, and may be younger than 10,000 years.

Dr David Price of Wollongong University, who made the original measurements, declined to comment until he had seen the new data, published in *Nature*. But he said that he had no reason yet to believe that his findings were not valid.

Dr Richard Fullagar, an archaeologist with the Australian Museum, who led the Jirnmium dig, was one of the authors of the original study and is also a co-author of the new paper with Dr Roberts.

He said that Dr Roberts' dates "do provide some agreement with some of the carbon dating that we think is more accurate".



Aborigines have been in Australia for only 10,000 years, rather than 100,000 years as had been claimed

## 'Sunquakes' put Richter scale in the shade

By Nigel Hawkes  
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Sun is shaken by huge "sunquakes" that dwarf anything experienced on Earth, scientists have found. One quake, triggered by a solar flare, ripped across the surface of the Sun at up to 250,000 mph, generating 40,000 times the power of the San Francisco earthquake.

The event was detected in July 1996 by the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory, a satellite that observes the behaviour of the Sun. The flare, effectively a huge explosion that threw a jet of material out of the surface like those caused by a stone thrown into a pond. Alexander Kosovichev, of Stanford University, and Valentina Zharkova, of Glasgow University, report in *Nature* that the ripples were up to two miles high and travelled 120 million miles before they subsided after an hour.

They accelerated from an initial 22,000 mph to 250,000 mph, generating enough energy to power the US for 20 years.

## Israelis say stress was part of Gulf War syndrome

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

SOLDIERS who served in the Gulf War may be suffering from a combination of stress and the drugs they were given to protect against nerve gas attacks.

This new explanation of "Gulf War syndrome" comes from Israeli scientists who have studied the long-term effects of stress on the body. They found that acute stress can cause long-term changes in brain chemistry, of the same sort that might have been caused by anti-nerve gas agents.

The implication is that the two effects, working together, might be responsible for the irritability, depression and impaired mental performance complained of by some Gulf War veterans. A team led by Dr Hermona Soreq of the Hebrew University in Jerusa-

lem studied the effects of acute stress on mice. They forced the mice to swim for four minutes in a bath of water and measured the results.

They found that the initial effect was to increase the level of the brain-signalling chemical acetylcholine. Exactly the same effect is achieved by drugs called acetylcholinesterase inhibitors, which were part of the drug cocktail given to some Gulf War soldiers.

But the long-term effects, the team reports in *Nature*, are exactly the opposite. The body reacts to increased levels of acetylcholine by making changes that lower those levels, by producing more of the enzyme, acetylcholinesterase, which breaks it down.

It is as if the body is adjusting the thermostat to cope with a permanently high level of stress. When that stress does not arise, the result is depression and the other features of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Although the team was working with mice, not humans, it is striking that both stress and acetylcholinesterase inhibitors had the same long-term effects. The enzyme levels in the mice brains were still elevated 80 hours after the stressful swim.

In humans, the effects appear to last months or even years, a difference requiring some explanation. Dr Robert Sapolsky of Stanford University says in a commentary in the same issue of *Nature*.



A British soldier in protective gas mask

## TV watchdog finds placenta meal tasteless

By Carol Midgley, Media Correspondent

A TELEVISION food show that showed a human placenta being cooked and eaten at a dinner party has been condemned by a broadcasting watchdog.

Channel 4's *TV Dinners* showed Rosie Clear cooking the afterbirth of her recent child with garlic and butter in the form of a pâté and serving it to her boyfriend and other guests. Nine viewers protested to the Broadcasting Standards Commission that the scene was distasteful and claiming that it was cannibalism.

Channel 4 argued that it was not intended to be a standard cookery programme and that there had been a warning prior to transmission. It said the practice of eating placenta was not illegal, had no obvious health risks and could be traced back centuries. "The programme-makers deliberately included chefs who were trying something

unusual or different," a spokesman said.

But the commission upheld the complaints and said that Channel 4 had breached the convention of a cookery programme "in a way which would have been disagreeable to many".

It also upheld complaints about bad language used in the BBC comedy show *The Vicar of Dibley*, starring Dawn French. Seven people complained about swearing in the pre-watershed programme. The BBC admitted some scenes were more adult than family but believed they were earthy rather than offensive. The commission, however, ruled that it had exceeded acceptable boundaries for a family sitcom.

The early evening Channel 4 show *Gamesmaster* was also criticised for including scenes from the computer game *Mortal Kombat IV*, which included graphic violence.

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# Pope seeks pilgrimage to Iraq

Vatican aide to pave way with visit to Baghdad, Richard Owen writes

A SENIOR Vatican official is to travel to Baghdad early next month to pave the way for a trip by the Pope to Iraq as part of a papal tour of the Holy Land for the millennium celebrations.

Vatican sources said Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, 75, one of the Pope's closest aides, would hold talks with Iraqi officials on the pontiff's plan to follow in the footsteps of Abraham, the biblical patriarch who is revered by Christians, Jews and Muslims.

The trip would take the Pope to Iraq, where Abraham was born; Egypt, where he lived in exile; and Israel and the West Bank, where he made his "covenant with

God". Officials said the Pope, 78, believed a reconciliation of the three great monotheistic religions would crown his papacy, which this week became the longest of the 20th century.

Diplomats gave a warning that the visit would be used by Iraqi officials as part of President Hussein's campaign to have the post-Gulf War UN embargo lifted. Earlier this month, Tariq Aziz, the Deputy Prime Minister, met the Pope in Rome to press Iraq's case for a lifting of sanctions. Next

Wednesday Richard Butler, the chief UN weapons inspector, is to brief the Security Council on the number of weapons of mass destruction still held by Iraq and the remaining steps to be taken by Baghdad if sanctions are to be reconsidered.

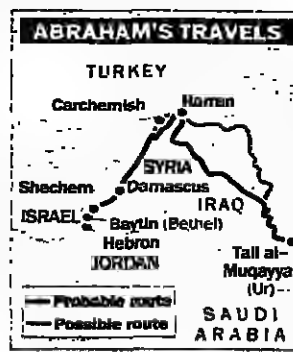
A visit to the Holy Land would fulfil a long-held ambition for the Pope. Although he looked frail than ever when he prayed before the Turin Shroud last Sunday, he has vowed to climb Mount Sinai with Jewish and Muslim lead-

ers in 2000. Last month, Israeli leaders said prospects for the trip were improving after the Vatican apologised in March for past Catholic behaviour towards the Jews.

Yesterday *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper, published a detailed calendar of events for the millennium, which has been declared a holy year, from the opening of the Holy Door in St Peter's on December 24, 1999, to closing celebrations on January 6, 2001. But Cardinal Etchegaray, a Frenchman of Basque origin who heads the Vatican Committee for the Millennium, said the Holy Land journey would be one of the main highlights.

The Pope is said to want to begin with a pilgrimage to Ur of the Chaldees, where Abraham was born in about 2000BC, in what was then Mesopotamia, now Iraq. Genesis records that Abraham, at first called Abram, was a descendant of Shem, one of the sons of Noah, and that he left Ur at the age of 75 after the death of his brother Haran and settled in Canaan (Palestine), building an altar at Shechem and then at Bethel.

The Bible further relates that Abraham and his family, including Sarah, his barren wife, and Lot, his brother's son, were driven by famine to Egypt, where Abraham was seduced by material prosper-



ty, becoming a rich farmer and allowing his wife to live with the Pharaoh. But he "heard the call again" and moved back to Canaan, making his "covenant with God" in

a vision, and having one son, Ishmael, by the Egyptian slave girl Hagar and another by Sarah, Isaac.

Isaac and Ishmael are regarded as the patriarchs of the biblical tribes, and Abraham is credited with abandoning traditional polytheism and forming the concept of a single God in control of the universe and all human destiny.

He is buried with Sarah in the tomb at Machpelah, near Hebron on the West Bank, which is sacred to both Jews and Muslims. Ur is identified by some archaeologists with Ur Kasdim, a Sumerian city, today called Tall al-Muqayyar and situated 200 miles south east of Baghdad.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 28 feared dead in air crash

Ulan Bator: A Mongolian Airlines plane carrying 28 people, including 12 children, crashed into a mountain and all those on board were feared dead, a government official said yesterday. Rescue workers at the scene found bodies but no survivors. The Chinese-built Yun-12 aircraft is designed to carry 19 passengers and crew. (Reuters)

### Plea for justice

Phnom Penh: Derek Fatchen, a Foreign Office Minister, has asked Cambodia to help to bring to justice those responsible for the 1976 murder of Christopher Howes, the British mine removal expert. (AP)

### Briton jailed

Singapore: Paul Wilson, 29, a British bank executive, here has been jailed for a week and fined S\$3,000 (£1,000) for slapping a policeman in a row over a karaoke bar bill, a newspaper reported. (AP)

### Rector resigns

Belgrade: Dragan Kuburovic, the Rector of Belgrade University, quit over legislation which makes his job a state appointment. Thousands of students demonstrated in the Serbian capital.

### Thousands flee

Tbilisi: Up to 38,000 have fled fighting in the breakaway region of Abkhazia in recent days, including 30,000 ethnic Georgians who had returned after fleeing a 1992-93 war, Georgian officials said. (AP)

### Queen avenged

Kigali: A Rwandan court has sentenced two people to death and jailed one for life for murdering Rosalia Gicanda, the country's last Tutsi queen, during the 1994 genocide, state television said. (Reuters)

### Thief half-sorry

Stockholm: A Swedish thief wrote to his unemployed victim begging forgiveness and enclosing the owner's unemployment claim forms, but did not return his car. (Reuters)

## Israel TV staff punished for 'false' report

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Israel Broadcasting Authority announced yesterday that it has disciplined four journalists for a television report it claimed was doctored to show Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, waving to a football crowd chanting "Death to the Arabs".

The unprecedented disciplinary action taken by Uri Porat, the director-general recently appointed by Mr Netanyahu, was seen in political circles as the first move in a campaign to clamp down on alleged left-wing bias on Israel's main Channel One television station.

There was uproar in a Knesset committee called to discuss the action yesterday after the authority announced that two editors responsible for the report had been demoted and that a television director and news director had been reprimanded.

The report, broadcast on Israel Television's main evening news, *Mabar*, showed Mr Netanyahu addressing a victory rally of Betar Jerusalem, the national league football champions, from a balcony at the Jerusalem municipality alongside Ehud Olmert, the right-wing mayor.

The authority alleged that while the crowd did chant "Death to the Arabs" briefly, the soundtrack had been edited to make it appear as if the Prime Minister could hear the chanting beneath the balcony while he waved.

The footage showed Mr Netanyahu and Mr Olmert smiling immediately after the anti-Arab threats. Both men said later that they had not heard the shouts and would have condemned them if they had.

"The editing fictitiously linked the chant 'Death to the Arabs' to the Prime Minister's greetings," the authority said.

The report, in its broadcast form, created the impression that the Prime Minister heard the chants and encouraged them.

A statement issued by the television newsroom staff said: "The director-general shot us with the Prime Minister's gun and they now have the entire news staff in their sights. It has been proved outright that there was no 'doctored' and no 'falsification'."

Mr Porat said: "My job is to protect the public against reports that are not true, and that is what I did."



A woman carries her child through an illegal Jewish settlement established in Jerusalem's Old City this week

## Shocked Blair boosts Palestinian aid

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN is to increase its aid to Palestinian refugees by a third, it will be announced today. The rise was ordered by Tony Blair, who was shocked at the conditions he saw in Palestinian refugee camps last month.

The new money, an increase of £2 million in Britain's annual contribution of £6 million, will be paid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, the largest of UN agencies set up to deal with the 750,000 Palestinians made homeless by the creation of Israel.

Britain's increased contri-

bution is timely, as the agency is facing a financial crisis that may force cuts in healthcare, training and basic rations. Its deficit this year is expected to reach £12 million, largely as a result of the 30 per cent increase in refugees in the past five years.

Mr Blair believes there is both a humanitarian and a

political case for doing more for the refugees if the Middle East peace process is to be given substance. Some 1.4 million of the refugees live in Jordan and a further 746,000 in Gaza. Downing Street said that meeting their needs was crucial in creating the climate in which political progress could be made.

## Rush for abortions after legal challenge

FROM SAM KULEV IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICAN hospitals and clinics say they have been inundated with requests for abortions from pregnant women who fear that the country's liberal law on terminations may be overturned by a constitutional challenge.

Pretoria High Court will rule on whether abortion violates a fetus's right to life after three Christian groups, including a lawyers' organisation, challenged the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act on the ground that life begins at conception.

Eddie Mshlanga, director of the National Child and Maternity Health Programme, said he had gone on the radio to reassure pregnant women that the Act, which entitled them to abortions, was still on the statute books. "We took at least 20 calls in my own office yesterday. I had to go on air to reassure people all over the country who... have been calling their local hospitals and are very worried."

About 30,000 South African women have had abortions since the Act came into effect in February last year, but the issue remains controversial with many doctors and midwives refusing to be associated with terminations.

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# Lawyers demand Lewinsky evidence

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PROSECUTORS last night made further efforts to corroborate the alleged sexual relationship between President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky, demanding fingerprints, voice and handwriting samples from the former White House trainee.

Ms Lewinsky, 24, visiting her father in California, was expected to provide the samples at a federal building in Los Angeles, where they will be analysed by the FBI.

The specimens are part of the detailed investigation by Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, into allegations of whether Mr Clinton conducted an 18-month affair with the trainee at the White House when she was 21 and later asked her to lie about it.

Mr Starr first subpoenaed the voice and fingerprint samples in January as part of a requirement that Ms Lewinsky appear before his grand jury in Washington, but suspended the demands while her lawyers argued over a possible immunity deal.

The decision to go ahead this week marked a shift in the case, after negotiations between the two sides collapsed last month. The Lewinsky family is said to be seeking a new criminal lawyer after concluding that she faces imminent indictment if she makes no deal to tell her story to the grand jury.

Mr Starr's aides have reconstructed every element of the former trainee's life, obtaining billing records, computer files, e-mail correspondence and telephone records. Ms Lewinsky has also handed in address books, some clothing and the credit card receipts which prosecutors hope will prove

that she gave a number of gifts to Mr Clinton, including a tie. Already in their possession are a series of presents Mr Clinton is alleged to have given the former West Wing trainee, who then returned them to Betty Currie, the President's private secretary.

Mr Starr has subpoenaed records from a Washington book shop of Ms Lewinsky's purchase of a novel about phone sex mentioned on more than 30 hours of tapes recorded by Linda Tripp, her former confidante.

By building a picture of her daily routine and the 37 logged visits to the White House after her hurried transfer to the Pentagon, the prosecutor hopes to substantiate Ms Lewinsky's taped comments about the alleged presidential affair. She has since denied the statements.

In the taped conversations, Ms Lewinsky reportedly said she engaged in oral sex with the President. When she first sought a deal with Mr Starr for full immunity, she signalled she was prepared to testify about the acts.

Without making a deal to testify, Ms Lewinsky faces an array of charges, including perjury and obstruction of justice and subornation of perjury.

"We are anticipating the full boat," William Ginsburg, her lawyer, said last week. "We are assuming there will be a grand jury appearance and there will be an indictment."

The grand jury has almost finished with its array of witnesses in the case, Francis Carter, Ms Lewinsky's first lawyer, and Ms Tripp herself are the only two still to be called.



Monica Lewinsky: is expected to be fingerprinted

# Literati take the love boat

350 women took to the Caribbean to learn and teach the sizzling art of romantic fiction, reports Ian Brodie

ROMANTIC fantasies were discussed earnestly by more than 350 women who have just taken a Caribbean cruise. The passengers were would-be writers of romantic fiction, established authors eager to teach them and avid readers who attended seminars on such topics as "How much sex is too much?"

The writing workshops included lessons in character development, emphasising the need for romantic heroines to be strong, intelligent and able to triumph over adversity. Heroes can be wild, buccaners even, but must also be courageous and, ultimately, tamed by the heroine.

There were racier sessions where male models vied for the title of "Mr Romance". The winner was assured a torrid embrace on the cover of a forthcoming bodice-ripper. Cheered on by ogling women, the men strutted about in jeans, bare-chested and flexing their pectorals in a half rather than full moon.

The romantic book-lovers' convention, known informally as the literary love boat, was organised by Kathryn Falk, a flamboyant, fiftyish American who founded *Romantic Times*, a monthly devoted to news and reviews of paperback passion.

Ms Falk has created her

own happy ending by buying the title to the Manor of Barrow, a village in Suffolk, for £60,000 from the Marquess of Bristol. She styles herself Lady of Barrow, which sounds so much like a character from romantic fiction that one expects a highwayman to come riding by.

In romantic fiction, the heroine invariably spurns the hero, only to discover through various conflicts that Mr Wrong was actually Mr Right. A typical synopsis be-

gins: "Yves Saint Roux, a bastard, is offered legitimacy if he champions a nobleman's widow and reclaims her property. He refuses. Then he meets the widow..." These are no ordinary folk. They have first names like Clayton, Meredith, Morgan, Willow, Fallon or Paige: never Fred or Ethel.

Ms Falk snorted: "Nobody wants to read about Fred and Ethel. These books are grown-up fairy tales. They require characters who trigger your

fantasies. They're about alpha males captivated by women who make them commit. It's a dream that seldom happens in real life. Think of Prince Charles. Bill Clinton or Donald Trump, all alpha males with status and leadership. How do you get these guys to commit?"

Romantic fiction is a huge market. In the US alone, 130 titles are published every month. More than 25 million women readers with a median age of 35 buy the books, spending the equivalent of £500 million.

Among those sailing on the *Celebration* from Florida to Mexico was Eida K. Bradbury, a married nurse and aspiring writer of romantic fiction. In three years she has written 30 unpublished novels and cheerfully refuses to give up. She is convinced her yarns will sell eventually.

During the cruise she learnt the no-no's of romantic fiction: no writing in the first person, no dirty dishes or laundry, no cranky children, no heroes with red hair.

Sex is no longer a no-no. Or, as they say in the trade, the bedroom door is now open. Books are rated sweet for no explicit sex, sensual for conventional lovemaking, spicy for very explicit sex and sexy — bordering on erotica.



The romantic clench favoured by Kathryn Falk

# Echoes of Salem in child abuse inquiry

BY TOM RHODES

MORE than 300 years after the Salem witch hunts featured in his play, *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller yesterday demanded a federal inquiry into the frenzy of false charges surrounding another small American town: home to the biggest sex abuse case in US history.

The story of Wenatchee, an apple-growing community in Washington state, rocked the nation between 1992 and 1995 when 43 adults were charged with 29,726 counts of child rape and molestation involving 60 children. Its subsequent investigation, however, has proved as disturbing as the charges. Miller, most famous for his play about the Massachusetts witch-hunts, is leading a group seeking a Justice Department inquiry and congressional hearings into the arrests.

Appearing at the New York Academy of Sciences yesterday, the Human Rights Coalition, which also includes William Styron, author of *Sophie's Choice*, and Mike Wallace, the veteran CBS anchor, demanded that Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, investigate possible civil rights abuses at Wenatchee.

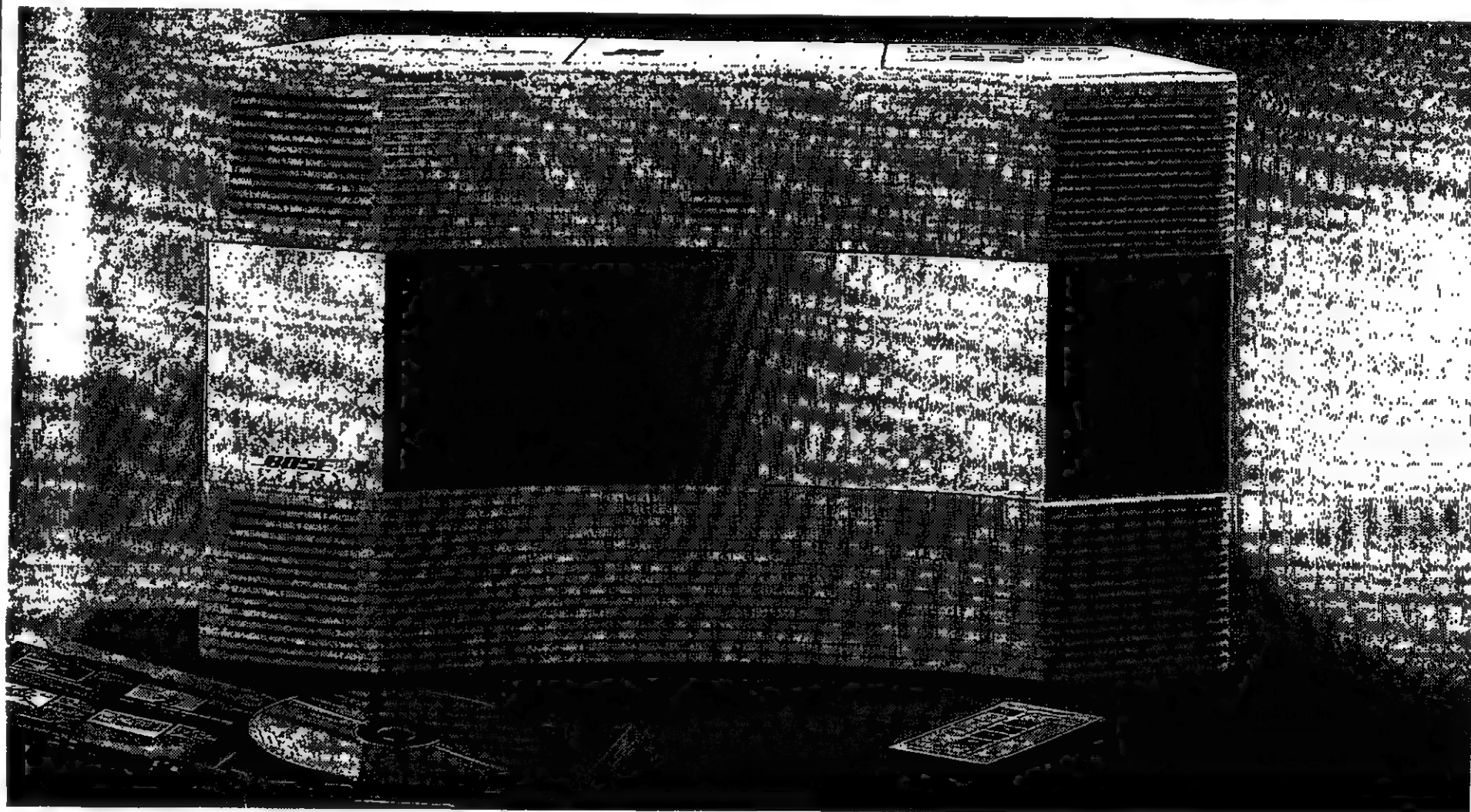
They also urged the Department of Health to examine

purported improprieties by child-abuse case workers in the town, where people confessed to crimes they now say were never committed and where children who made shocking accusations now claim they never happened.

Wenatchee began with one girl, Melinda Everett, then nine, who told her school counsellor that two boys had touched her genitals. Police and social workers later decided that others were at fault, including parents, neighbours, and members of a Pentecostal church, who were said to have taken part in multiple orgies. Dozens were imprisoned and their children sent to foster homes.

Sixteen of the accused, alleged to have committed their deeds dressed in black robes and sunglasses, remain in prison. Others have filed a \$100 million (£60 million) lawsuit against officials for false accusations.

Next week, the coalition will file a complaint in Washington seeking a halt to funding for the child protection agencies that make such tragedies possible. Although Ms Reno declined to begin a federal inquiry two years ago, she said this year that the Justice Department might reconsider.



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# Pakistan is ready for atomic test, claims US

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

PAKISTAN has completed preparations for an underground nuclear test in the Baluchistan desert and could conduct an explosion within hours of deciding to do so, according to American intelligence officials.

The news came as India, contemplating the economic costs of the explosions, offered a "no first use" deal with Pakistan.

The Islamabad Government is being tempted by American offers of substantial economic rewards for not conducting a test. Islamabad insisted it had not finalised a decision.

Public support for an explosion, although still high, is eroding amid fears of the potentially crushing impact of international sanctions. Without intervention by international agencies Pakistan will run out of foreign exchange reserves by September, leaving it acutely vulnerable to punitive measures.

But Sartaj Aziz, the Pakistani Finance Minister, referring to the American offer, said yesterday that an economic package is not a substitute for the security of the country. "Even if we receive an economic package, in view of the threatening situation in India, what will we do with that economic package?" he asked.

India, with an economy ten times the size of Pakistan's, is redrafting next week's budget

proposals to take account of sanctions after its explosion of five nuclear devices two weeks ago. The rupee has fallen to record lows against the dollar and the stock markets were substantially down yesterday.

The World Bank has delayed consideration of three loans to India totalling \$655 million (£525 million), disrupting plans for a range of infrastructure projects. Cuts in aid will also hurt some welfare programmes, despite efforts to exempt the poor. India may have underestimated the consequences of its nuclear blasts, which have destroyed a steadily improving relationship with China and inflamed cross-border tensions with Pakistan.

The "no first use" offer is barely worth anything: Pakistan will certainly have no interest in such a deal as it presses ahead with a nuclear race to be the first to put nuclear warheads on missiles. Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Indian Prime Minister, justified the nuclear explosions yesterday in a lengthy speech to parliament, unusually delivered in English in order to reach an international audience.

He said his Government was concerned about the "nuclear environment" in the region. He declared India to be a nuclear state, "a reality that cannot be denied". India did not intend to use nuclear arms for aggression or to threaten any country. They



Traders watch prices fall to a five-year low on the Karachi Stock Exchange yesterday amid rumours that Pakistan plans to carry out nuclear tests

were weapons of self-defence to ensure that India was not subjected to nuclear threats or coercion. Nor did India intend to join an arms race.

Pakistan said that, like international sanctions, the World Bank's action on loans to India was inadequate. But it has assured the US that it has not yet opted to go ahead with a nuclear test, according to American officials. "At this point they could conduct a nuclear test at any time," an intelligence official said. Preparations had intensified in recent days at Ras Koh in the Chagai Hills in the Baluchistan desert. Final preparations would involve lowering a

nuclear device into a shaft, attaching cables to measure its yield and other performance characteristics, and then covering the shaft to contain the blast underground.

The euphoria over the nuclear blasts in India is giving way slowly to a realisation that the country will pay a huge price for its demonstration of power. Opposition parties, while not criticising the tests, are starting to question the Government's motives and accusing it of being driven by populism rather than security concerns. A sometimes rowdy parliamentary debate yesterday displayed deepening doubts

about the wisdom of conducting the tests. MPs from the opposition Congress Party issued a warning that they would oppose any attempt to move towards "weaponisation" — a reference to the development of nuclear devices for delivery by missiles.

George Fernandes, the Defence Minister, said that weaponisation would go ahead despite the decision not to conduct further nuclear tests. Asked if India would move on to build a nuclear arsenal, he said that it would, adding: "Otherwise this test will have gone in vain. After all, we had a test in 1974 and it went in vain. Nobody should believe that what we did this time will also be allowed to go in vain."

The remarks will further intensify demands in Pakistan for a test to go ahead, presum-

ably the point of India's continually inflammatory remarks. Delhi knows that a Pakistani test would deflect criticism from its own action as well as inflict severe damage on Pakistan's economy. Some of the Vajpayee Government's coalition partners are unhappy about a growing perception that the explosions may have been carried out for domestic political gain. China, cited as a potential aggressor, has mocked the idea that it has any strategic interest in India, with which it fought a brief border war in 1962. The perceived threat from China has been Delhi's principal justification for the tests.



## Flames set trap for tigers

BY HELEN RUMBLOW

THE world's last wild Siberian tigers are threatened by a forest fire destroying their refuge from poachers in the Russian Far East.

There are only 350 adult Siberian tigers left in the wild, and the inferno is forcing them to break cover to look for food. Villagers then shoot them out of fear, and poachers for their body parts. A bowl of tiger penis soup sells for up to \$500 across the nearby Chinese border. A third of the Siberian tigers live in the area of the fire in the Sikhotealin Reserve, 450 miles north of Vladivostok. Flames sparked by lightning two weeks ago have destroyed more than 9,500 acres of pine and are



still raging out of control. The blaze has spread across the tigers' core breeding area because lack of funds has meant that, for the first time in a decade, firebreaks were neglected this year. Unusually hot weather and a lack of winter snow have compounded foresters' prob-

lems, and this week another of the four reserves, Lazovsky, was hit by fires.

Operation Amba, the Russian tiger conservation patrol, has been put on emergency alert and an appeal launched for money to clear firebreaks, said a spokeswoman for Tusk Force, one of the international charities that funds it. "As you remember from Shere Khan in the Jungle Book, fire is one of the few things which frightens the life out of tigers," Cubs may be burnt alive, but most adults will run away.

Andrei Yargin, a conservationist for Operation Amba, said there were now very few pigs and deer, on which the tigers prey, left in the area around the burning forest, so in the past few days there had



Burning bright: fires are forcing Siberian tigers from the safety of the forest

been increasing reports of tigers prowling nearby villages. "Yesterday we were called out because a tiger was seen hiding in the village bushes. If we don't get there

first, they shoot them. We're very worried because it's going to be a very hot summer and we can only expect fires to get worse."

The Siberian tiger is the

largest cat in the world and the only tiger to live in freezing conditions, growing up to 12ft long and weighing up to 48st. It has a thick, pale coat and large fat deposits.

## Iraq seeks payout for shell 'victims'

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

IRAQ is demanding compensation from Britain for allegedly causing health problems by firing depleted-uranium shells during the 1991 Gulf War.

Muhammad al-Sahaf, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, has sent a formal complaint to Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, according to the Iraqi News Agency in Baghdad.

The minister, who is also making a claim against the United States for firing depleted-uranium shells, claimed: "A number of diseases, unfamiliar in the past, have been

registered, such as foetal and bone deformities... in addition there are rising cases of child leukaemia."

In London, the Ministry of Defence said: "We have never attempted to conceal the use of depleted-uranium shells in the Gulf War." British veterans suffering from unexplained illnesses since the 1991 conflict have included depleted uranium as one of the possible causes. The Government is carrying out research into many areas connected with the war but there is no separate study into the use of depleted-uranium shells.

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## Danes braced to upset Brussels

THE Prime Minister of Denmark, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, looked worried as he wandered up the street from the Folketing (parliament) yesterday to hand red roses to Copenhagen's lunchtime shoppers and urge them to vote "yes for Europe".

Opinion polls suggest that the European Union's biggest sceptics will back the Treaty of Amsterdam in a referendum today, spurring the EU a repeat of Denmark's rejection in June 1992 of the Maastricht plan. But, as the shock of 1992 showed, Danish voters enjoy confounding pollsters. With up to a fifth still undecided yesterday and under half saying they favour the treaty, Mr Rasmussen's centre-left coalition and the pro-European opposition are braced for possible rejection.

Under EU rules a *nej* would scupper the Amsterdam treaty, which must be ratified by EU parliaments and put to plebiscite in Denmark and the Irish Republic. A "no" would also cast strong doubt over Denmark's continued EU membership. The other capitals are in no mood to tailor another special version for

**Pro-Europeans are heading for another setback, writes Charles**

**Bremner**

Copenhagen, with multiple opt-outs of the kind that won Danish assent in a repeat referendum in 1993.

Mr Rasmussen is aware of the stakes. "Please come out and vote 'yes' tomorrow. We must not let Denmark be pushed out of the mainstream, stuck on the edge of Europe," he begged passers-by.

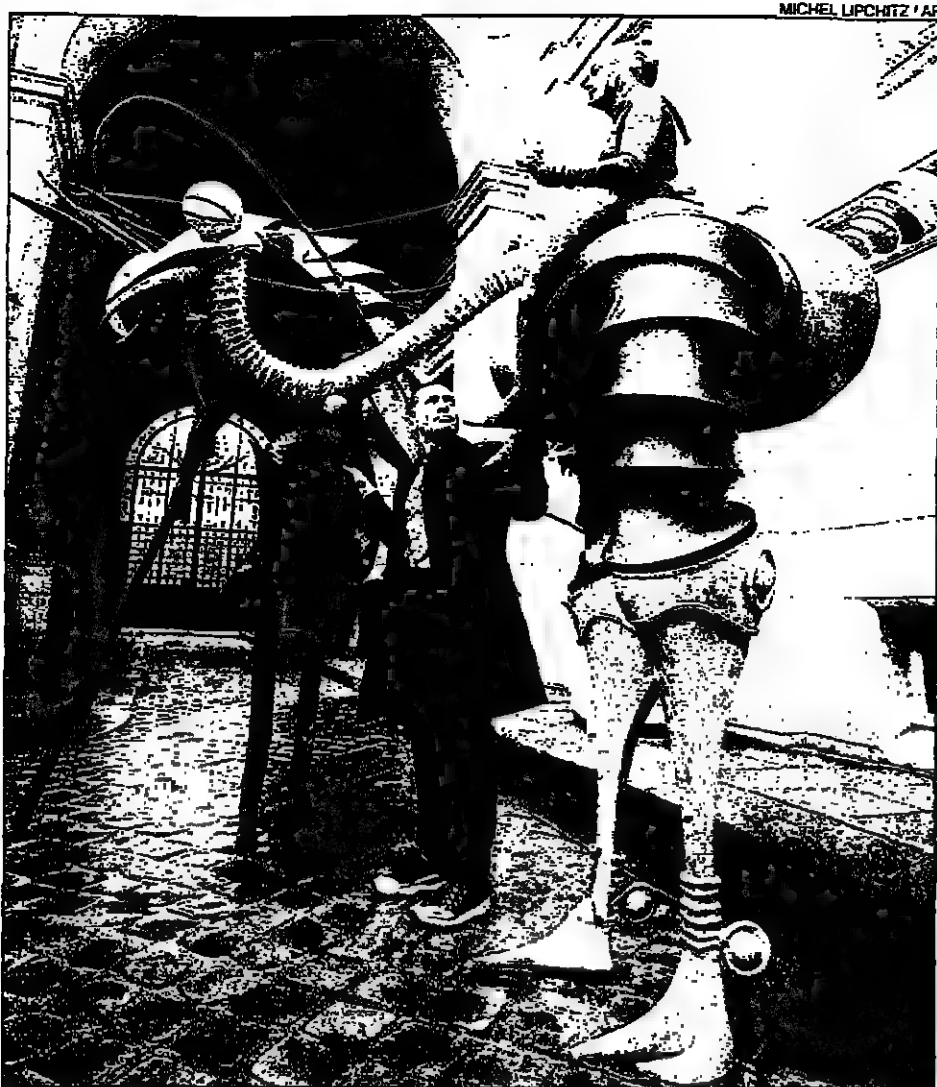
Round the corner in Amager Torv, Drude Dahlerup, a leader of the anti-Amsterdam "June Movement", was accusing pedestrians on behalf of the "no" campaign. In language from the lexicon of Messrs Hague and Howard, she said: "This ever closer union is a step in the wrong direction... We need a more realistic and down-to-earth project."

The arguments of both camps are confusing to a public that is far from clear about what they are being asked to endorse. On both sides, emotion has prevailed to a great extent, with recitals of all that is good or bad in Denmark's 25 years of Community membership.

One extreme can be found at the gates of the Folketing, where Pastor Moses Hansen, an evangelical Lutheran, has pitched his tent "on the Lord's command" to press for a "no" because a "yes" would "open the way to the domination of the Roman Catholic Church".

Mr Rasmussen's team insists that Amsterdam will benefit Denmark because it will ensure that refugees from the East are spread more evenly around the Union. The political establishment and the business world say that the treaty responds to the Danes' traditionally jaundiced view of Europe because it marks a step back from deeper integration and towards opening up the Union to the East, greater internal transparency and a focus on the environment.

Leading article, page 23



High tackle: designer Jean-Pascal Levy-Trumet yesterday revealing two of his creations for a Paris procession on the eve of the football World Cup on June 9

## Juppé denies role in Paris corruption

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ALAIN JUPPÉ, the French former Prime Minister, may be the next senior conservative politician to be drawn into a damaging party funding corruption scandal, according to a French news report yesterday which drew angry denials from President Chirac.

*Le Monde* reported that a "crisis unit" had been set up at the Elysée Palace in case M Juppé, now Mayor of Bordeaux, becomes implicated in an investigation into the funding of the Gaullist RPR party founded by M Chirac. The party is already fighting allegations that up to 300 people, many of them RPR supporters or workers, were on the city hall payroll when M Chirac was Mayor of Paris.

The paper said that the expanding judicial investigation "could lead Patrick Desmure, the investigating magistrate, to interrogate M Juppé about his former double role as Deputy Mayor of Paris and secretary-general of the RPR".

M Juppé was ousted as Prime Minister at last year's legislative elections. He was

Deputy Mayor of Paris in charge of the city's finances from 1983 to 1995 and secretary-general of the Gaullist party from 1988 to 1995.

Within an hour of the publication of the *Le Monde* report the President's office issued a statement denying the allegations and insisting that no task force had been set up around M Chirac's long-time ally. "No crisis unit of this sort exists and the Elysée regrets that *Le Monde* did not take the trouble to check its information before publication," the statement said.

M Juppé also issued a statement expressing his indignation at what he said was "ostensibly a bid to exercise media and political pressure aimed at influencing the course of justice".

*Le Monde* claimed that the purported presidential task force to deal with corruption investigations included Dominique de Villepin, secretary-general at the Elysée, and a legal adviser to the President.

A series of investigations into party financing has been under way since 1994.

## Habibie fails to allay fears of returning Chinese

James Pringle in Jakarta reports on the gloom pervading Chinatown

INDONESIANS of Chinese origin were pouring back into Jakarta yesterday from their refuges abroad, and heading for their wrecked homes after President Habibie had toured riot-hit Chinatown and expressed his sadness over the unrest that, he said, had caused so much suffering.

But Chinatown residents said they still feared fresh violence and wondered just how much trust they could put in the protégé of former President Suharto.

Flights from Singapore, Hong Kong and elsewhere in the Chinese diaspora were packed with returning ethnic Chinese. "We can't stay in overseas hotels forever, and want to pick up the pieces, but we are nervous," said one woman, who was arriving from Singapore.

Parts of smoke-blackened Chinatown around the Glodok market still look like Beirut during its worst days. "We don't know what to do," said Jahyadi Djuhana, 51, peering into his gutted electronic shop, alongside his wife Lee Mei and ten-year-old daughter Sylvie. "We've lost everything."

As he spoke, native Indonesians continued to carry

warren of little streets — a kind of mini-ghetto — around Glodok market said they were staying in case looters returned. "I'm still very frightened," said one middle-aged woman, pointing to the shell of her house. "When the mobs came here they set fire to houses more than a storey high and no firemen ever arrived."

An 82-year-old man spoke of those who had torched Chinatown. "Someone high up told them they could kill Chinese, loot our goods and rape Chinese girls," he said, echoing an often repeated allegation.

Under President Suharto, Chinese schools were closed, and written Chinese characters banned from display. Chinese were barred from government offices and most professions, limiting them to trade. It is illegal to celebrate Chinese New Year.

Nothing is likely to change soon. Dr Habibie, who has links with Muslim figures, has been critical in the past of Indonesia's Chinese businessmen who controlled two thirds of the economy. Yet their participation is seen as crucial in putting the ravaged economy back together.

Police chief sacked: Major-General Hamami Nata, the metropolitan police chief, is to be replaced, less than two weeks after the riots. He will hand over office to Major-General Nugroho Djujuman today. (Reuters)



Workers at a demonstration in Seoul yesterday

## Strikes hit Korea

Seoul: About 120,000 South Korean workers launched a nationwide strike yesterday, paralysing industry as they demanded action to end waves of redundancies.

"No layoffs," 1,500 union members chanted as they marched in Seoul, the capital, undaunted by riot police armed with water cannon, clubs and teargas rifles. "Let's fight to protect our jobs," they shouted during a march through a commercial district of the city centre.

A nationwide strike was launched by the militant Korean Confederation of Trade Unions. The confederation accuses the Government and management of failing to honour an accord with the unions that called for all

sectors to share sacrifices to fight the economic crisis, which forced South Korea to ask the International Monetary Fund for \$57 billion (£35 billion) last December.

"What we are demanding is not out of the question. We demand an end to layoffs which force only workers to make sacrifices," a union leader said.

Strikes and rallies were peaceful, but employers said the action could hurt the country's chances of early recovery. "A full-fledged strike at a time when the Government, management and labour should join hands to save the economy does nothing but kill it," said the Korean Federation of Industries. (AFP)

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# New drug to ease signs of dementia



**Dr Thomas Stuttaford on Alzheimer's disease; Asperger's syndrome; contact lenses; heart attacks; lead poisoning**

Photographs of the time show that although Auguste was 51, she looked 10 years older, with a haggard, sad, perplexed face crowned with long, lank hair. Auguste, a German woman from Frankfurt am Main, was referred in 1901 to Alois Alzheimer, a neurologist in the town. By the time Auguste saw Dr Alzheimer, her memory

was already fading and her intellectual capacity had diminished to the point where she did not always understand questions, or give reasonable answers to them, even when they were quite simple. She also showed signs of paranoia and disorientation, and sometimes had hallucinations. Auguste died five years later, but her name lives on in medical history. She was the



Colin Jackson sports the Union Jack look. Changing your eye colour is much in vogue, but all contact lenses must be looked after carefully to minimise the risk of infection

**THE HURDLER** Colin Jackson, in a surfeit of patriotism, wore Union Jack contact lenses at the 1994 world athletics championships. Actors and actresses have also been known to change the colour of their eyes to suit a particular role.

The habit of using decorated lenses has even spread to teenage clubbers. But contact lenses need careful fitting, and must be kept as clean and sterile as possible. Each year, even when the best medical advice is

## Red, white and blue eyes

followed, one in 2,000 wearers will need treatment for an eye infection. The risk from buying coloured lenses through mail order is thought to be much greater — and the habit of swapping lenses is even worse. The patient with red eyes is often less concerned about them than is the doctor, who

knows that although most cases will have an easily treatable cause, this can be the first sign of a more serious condition. It is always necessary to exclude the possibility of glaucoma, uveitis, iritis or corneal ulcers.

In a review of the treatment for red eyes in *Pulse* magazine, Dr Mike Wyndham writes

that the condition accounts for between 2 and 5 per cent of all GP consultations. The doctor's first duty is to ensure there is nothing in the patient's eye, such as a speck of dust.

Most red eyes are the result of an allergy. They will itch, and there will usually have been other symptoms. A heavy discharge suggests that the infection may be bacterial — maybe a sexually transmitted infection. Chlamydia and gonorrhoea are as at home in the eye as in the genital region.

## Heavy metal hazard

THE dangers of inner-city children developing lead poisoning from traffic fumes received more publicity last week.

Now scientists have discovered that children born with silver spoons in their mouths, and antique tableware to eat with, may also be at risk from lead poisoning. Research chemists in Missouri have tested antique crockery and found that the ancestral dinner service may contain quantities of lead at levels which pose a theoretical problem. One Japanese plate exceeded modern safety limits by 250 times. Presumably some of our older educational establishments would have noticed by now if the risk was real, rather than theoretical.

## Chestiness that harms the heart

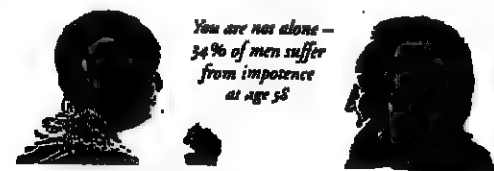
DESMOND WILCOX'S many fans will be relieved to hear that he is recovering from his heart attack. His troubles coincided with a report in *The Lancet* on the study of the causes of heart disease. Researchers have been analysing the long-held belief that the common cold and acute respiratory tract infections can trigger a heart attack. Their studies show that on this occasion established anecdotal evidence can be supported by scientific investigation.

The research, which investigated 10,000 patients under 75, found that the chance of having a heart attack was three times greater during the ten days after an acute respiratory tract infection, from a viral cough accompanying a cold through to severe bronchitis and pneumonia. The cause of coronary thrombosis associated with chest infections is probably multifactorial. In some cases, severe respiratory tract infections may reduce levels of oxygen in the blood.

Last year there was another study, also published in *The Lancet*, by Dr John Danesh, Professor Rory Collins and Professor Richard Peto of Oxford University. Their research, funded by the British Heart Foundation, studied the effect of three infecting organisms on heart attacks. One, *Chlamydia pneumoniae* — a cause of persistent chest infection — could be shown to be associated with coronary arterial disease.



Desmond Wilcox



What my older, wiser brother said about "IMPOTENCE"

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Angela Browning's decision to renounce a high-flying political career so that she may have more time to look after her son, Robin, who has Asperger's syndrome, has drawn attention to a condition that is still under-recognised. Although some studies have suggested that Asperger's syndrome may be three times more common than autism, a description of it is still omitted from many standard textbooks.

Mrs Browning's decision will not only benefit Robin, but will also have helped to publicise the syndrome, which was first described by Hans Asperger in 1944. A year earlier, Dr L. Kanner, an American, had defined autism. The outstanding characteristics of the disorder were those that have been described as contributing to "life-long social isolation and conspicuous eccentricity".

It is now widely assumed that Asperger's syndrome is similar to autism but the children frequently have a normal IQ and no severe language problems. Later, as adults, they are abnormally solitary, avoid eye contact, fail to understand facial expressions and use inappropriate



Angela Browning will be campaigning no more

gestures. They are insensitive to other people's feelings, aloof and, not unnaturally, fail to establish empathy with those around them. If their intelligence is unimpaired, they may display all the characteristics of the mad professor. Distant and with a rigid behavioural pattern, they may have an inventive mind capable of highly original thought. The sufferers have a habit of accumulating vast amounts of knowledge about very limited subjects. People with Asperger's who

are less bright than normal may still have the ability to work out seemingly intricate sums in their head.

Robin Browning, it seems, has an uncanny ability to remember birthdays and parliamentary majorities, and can translate dates into days of the week in a flash. However, Robin does not have the temperament to hold down a job and like many people with Asperger's, leads a very well-ruled life.

Two or three years ago I was involved with the care of

## The 'mad professor' syndrome

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# The dark side of the suburbs

The first rule of living in a suburb is never to get involved, says Celia Brayfield

I have a fantasy about the Hogarth roundabout. If you don't know this particular roundabout, you know one like it: it is the clogged aortic valve in London's traffic circulation, traversed and cursed by a million motorists a day. In my fantasy there is a huge illuminated sign flashing over the slip road to Chiswick from the Hogarth roundabout. It reads: "LEAVE YOUR BRAIN BEHIND BEFORE ENTERING THE SUBURBS."

There's something about Chiswick. It's London's La-la-land: the smoggy mecca of Volvo culture, a place that begs for ridicule. Chiswick is the inspiration for my first comic novel, *Getting Home*, but in satirising the place I'm following in the footsteps of G.K. Chesterton and half a dozen other authors.

This is not going to be a burb-bashing from some Post-Modern poseur with a minimalist loft for a home and a Feng Shui money plant for a family. I love the suburbs. I love lawns and order. I love school runs, the morning birdsong and the whiff of barbecue smoke drifting over the rampant rose trellises on Saturday evenings in the summer.

When I lived in Chiswick I loved baking cakes for school fetes and chatting with my neighbours over the organic vegetable racks in Sainsbury's. I thought of these things as the sacraments of our neighbourhood, the outward and visible signs of our inward and spiritual community. But after a few years I

realised that a suburb isn't a community, quite the opposite. It's just a freak of geography whose inhabitants are trying to ignore each other.

An example of what I mean: a neighbour had a fundraising buffet supper in aid of our school. Her husband, who was beginning the nervous breakdown that eventually disabled him for life, fled to the pub and reappeared halfway through the soiree with an archetypal barfly. They were seriously drunk. The barfly lurched around the room shouting, swearing and insulting people.

Nobody reacted. The chit-chat continued. It was surreal. Buñuel-esque. Even when he started throwing furniture, none of the husbands — doctors, lawyers, rugby club members, school governors and other community pillars

Samaritans in the suburbs, everyone passes by on the other side — then gossips about the victim.

That's what I hate about suburbia, but I still can't give up the dream. It's an abusive relationship, a fatal attraction, rooted in my dysfunctional childhood in Wembley Park, a Mini Metroland where my father washed the car on Sundays and my parents never spoke to their neighbours. I got out as soon as I could.

But I had to go back. Once I had become a mother, I longed to be in a place where street life meant trees. I had got scared watching the patrons of the gay pub over the road trying to kill each other, and my baby's buggy was stolen from outside the front door of our flat, so I moved to the suburbs for the same reason as everyone else — I thought it was the best place to raise a family.

Chiswick is famous for its village atmosphere, but that's all there is — atmosphere. Village life is the great British ideal, but real villages were bound together by their institutions, farms, churches, industries, mines. In this era of globally mobile labour and portfolio careers, nobody shares anything in a suburb, except maybe a nanny or an electric hedge trimmer. We've taken a village concept and thrown out the humanity, so all that's left is small-mindedness and gossip.

People in suburbs have only one point of contact — their kids go to the same school. They have nothing else in common except their obsession with privacy. Intellectual-

Anyone with a problem is screened out; there are no Good Samaritans

— intervened to escort the barfly to the door and their incapable host to bed. All those good people pretended nothing was happening, said their goodnights and left their hosts alone with four small children and two violent drunks.

Rule No 1 in a suburb is "Never get involved." It was the same when people's marriages were in trouble, when they were burgled, when their children were bullied and when I was persecuted by a stalker. The neighbours simply screened out anyone with a problem. There are no good



"Chiswick is famous for its village atmosphere, but that's all there is — atmosphere. We've taken a village concept and thrown out the humanity"

ly, suburban life is like an endless Victorian diplomatic dinner at which all hot topics are off limits, so you can't talk about money or politics. You have to pretend you don't know that your neighbour's husband has just liquidated his company for the fourth time. You have to devise gambits in conversations that start like this: (daughter, aged 12): "Daddy, what is a feminist?" (father, MA Hons, Cambridge): "Well, dear, a feminist is a woman who hates men."

Art is another no-no. You can't reappraise *The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie* with an international banker whose cultural life consists of sleeping through in-flight movies. And a woman can't say anything to a man anyway without his wife swooping down like a vulture to sink her talons into his carcass.

They really happen, those parties where the men talk business at one end of the room and the women, at the other end, discuss children. A woman such as myself, who likes to discuss children and business, will be shot down by her own side in that no man's land between the sexes.

Sex, of course, is the ultimate taboo. The only creatures who enjoy sex out here are the hamsters. Sex in a suburb is nothing to do with fun, love or even raising rugrats — it is about power and status — women's power and status.

A suburb is governed by women, women whose brains have turned to freshly squeezed orange juice and whose husbands are never home. The male presence in the suburban family is merely financial. From the moment we entered the mother and toddler group I realised with surprise that most of my married neighbours felt just as lonely and abandoned as I did as a single mother. Their husbands worked absurdly hard — 14-hour days were common. They commuted ridiculous distances; one husband drove to Birmingham and back every day, another flew to New York twice a week. "Married sex," said one wife bitterly, "it doesn't really count, does it?"

With their men's significance reduced to a monthly credit transfer, the recession led these women to adopt tactics worthy of *The Lysistrata* — downsized husbands

were simply kicked out of the marital bed. "Well, he's no use to me if he's not earning," was the rationale. Suburbs are not about healthy families any more. Suburban culture plus corporate greed equals the worst threat to English family life since Henry VIII divorced Catherine of Aragon. I agree with the British Telecom commercials — why not change the way we work?

How did we get to this half-timbered hell? The road was paved with good intentions. People have been devising the ideal living environment since the dawn of civilisation. Plato proposed a city governed by reason, justice and courage, and civilised through music and sport.

Chiswick began with Platonic ideals added to the visions of John Ruskin and William Morris — the village dream again. Its heartland, Bedford Park, was the first garden suburb, built from 1877 as a complete community with schools, church, theatre, art college, shops, pub, tennis courts, livery stable, "vigilant committee" and a social club offering lectures on scientific,

literary and political subjects in a country house atmosphere. "As pure a sample of civilisation as any on this planet," raved one of the few early supporters.

Civilisation was not cost-effective, however. The original developer went bust. But it was the right idea. The meanest houses in Bedford Park now change hands at around half a million pounds.

We invented the suburb in Britain because, unlike the French and Italians, we can't live in cities. We're too selfish, too cruel and too greedy, and we've actually built these faults into the environment. Our towns are planned for profit, not for families, and we have sold our soul to the car culture.

Towns such as Nottingham and Chesterfield have been eviscerated for the benefit of drivers and supermarkets. London has not really progressed in spirit since Engels observed that people living in slum tenements without the luxury of sanitation kept pigs in the courtyards to solve their sewage problem.

Land in London is too expensive to waste on marginal investments such as children.

Docklands, dubbed "the most exciting and vibrant urban regeneration project in Europe", is a magnet for foreign investors, who rent small flats to singletons who have to drive miles to satisfy most of their human needs. No wonder Bedford Park looks so desirable. When I began writing my novel last year 300 people were moving out of London every day; the exodus is now happening three times as fast.

This madness has to stop because we are running out of space. Every year for the past decade new suburbs have been built on greenfield sites over an area the size of Bristol. Our leafy dream is becoming an environmental disaster. The challenge the House of Commons Select Committee on Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs faces is not only to plan with the wisdom of Plato, but to change the national character so that we can actually bear to live with each other. But I don't think they will change Chiswick. It has become a Shangri-la, cut off from the real world by mountains of money.

● *Getting Home* by Celia Brayfield is published by Little, Brown (£15.99) on June 4.

THE TIMES

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30p

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# There is an alternative: let's test it

David Weatherall wants doctors to learn from complementary healers

In recent years there has been a remarkable change in the attitude of patients to conventional medical practice. A survey in 1990 revealed that Americans made more than 425 million visits to complementary therapists, compared with 388 million to primary-care physicians. In Great Britain there are now some 30,000 exponents of complementary medicine, offering more than 60 different treatments, ranging from osteopathy through aromatherapy to transpersonal psychology.

Since patients are voting with their feet, the medical profession cannot continue to ignore these unconventional approaches to their care but should, instead, examine why they are so successful. For this reason, the establishment of the Foundation for Integrated Medicine, the Prince of Wales's initiative to develop a programme for the study of complementary medicine, should be welcomed. It is due to hold its first scientific conference today.

The origins of the present disillusionment with traditional Western medicine can, paradoxically, be traced to some of its extraordinary successes earlier this century. In the period after the Second World War, when the development of new vaccines and the discovery of antibiotics led to the control of many infectious diseases, it appeared that medical science was capable of almost anything. The virtual disappearance overnight of smallpox, diphtheria and polio prompted the expectation that equally spectacular progress would continue. But the diseases that took their place—heart attacks, strokes, cancer and rheumatism—were much more intractable.

Our relative lack of success in controlling our current ills is not surprising. Unlike infectious diseases they do not have a single cause, but result from the interaction of our genes with the complex environment that we have created, and the ill-understood physiological changes of ageing. As a result, they are never likely to be controlled by single therapeutic "magic bullets". So although remarkable progress has been made in their symptomatic control, their definitive control and treatment has been less successful. Even the remarkable developments in molecular sciences of recent years, which are revealing so much about the causes of diseases such as cancer, have yet to make a major clinical impact. Since more than 70 years elapsed between the discovery of the organisms that cause infection and their control with vaccines and antibiotics, this delay in the application of advances in basic medical science should not surprise us.

These shortcomings are not the only reason that patients are seeking complementary practitioners. The increasing demands on conventional medicine—reflecting the ageing population and the growing insistence on improved efficiency—and the chronic government underfunding of

healthcare mean that doctors have less and less time to talk to patients. Good pastoral care is now at a premium. Earlier medical successes have prompted us to expect to be in a constant state of rude health. There is also a growing mistrust of the kind of science that underpins traditional medical practice. Since religion does not seem to provide the kind of support that we need, there is an increasing movement towards those who purport to have the answers: even the fate of England's World Cup squad appears to rest in the hands of a faith-healer.

It is far from clear, however, whether the growing popularity of complementary medicine reflects the time that its practitioners are able to spend with patients or the varied forms of therapy that they offer. Very little is known about the efficacy of their treatments, and even less about their safety.

Conventional Western medicine, when it is successful, is always based on good scientific principles. Its approaches to diagnosis and treatment are the fruits of hypotheses, small-scale studies, and the application of carefully controlled clinical trials, often involving large numbers of patients, backed up by careful statistical analysis. In many cases this is the only way to find out for certain whether particular forms of treatment are effective. One of the first lessons to be learnt

was the importance of the "placebo effect". Complementary medicine must undergo the same rigorous examination. A great deal of ingenuity may be required to design meaningful clinical trials, because of the rituals involved in some treatments, but this is the only way to determine whether the diverse therapies of complementary medicine are safe and of genuine value. We also need to find out more about why people choose to visit complementary practitioners and to what extent it reflects the additional time, understanding and sympathy they are able to offer.

The time has clearly come to evaluate the activities of complementary medicine by methods based on solid scientific principles: its practitioners have everything to gain by exposing their treatments to rigorous evaluation in this way. Given the parlous financial state of the National Health Service, this information is badly needed if resources are to be distributed sensibly; none of the richer countries in the West has learnt how to cope with the rising costs of healthcare for their ageing societies.

Conventional medicine must join forces with complementary practice to evaluate their different approaches to patient care in an objective and unemotional way. The creation of the new foundation is a promising start.

Sir David Weatherall is Regius Professor of Medicine at the University of Oxford.



## The Hurd instinct

In his mandarin view of politics the public is Adam and Eve, tempted by the media

Many political memoirs are boring, some unbearably so. Sometimes a politician writes a further volume of memoirs, later in retirement, with less detail and self-justification but more imagination and reflection. That almost always makes the more interesting book. The need is for the retired politician to convey what office was like, rather than repeating old arguments which have lost their immediate interest but have not been lost in the writer's mind.

Douglas Hurd has tried to short-circuit this process by making the first book of his retirement a novel, *The Shape of Ice*. It is published by Little-Brown at £15.99. As a novel it will make admirable reading for a Tuscan holiday. Guests will then leave it behind in their friends' houses: in ten years' time a curious new generation of English visitors will take it out to the pool to read in that period which comes after the siesta and before the first evening drinks. They will enjoy it. It has been widely reviewed and I have little to add to what the reviewers have said about its literary character. I finished it inside 24 hours, at two sittings. Like most of the reviewers, I found the scenes with red boxes more convincing and more interesting than the bedroom scenes.

A theme runs through the book. It is not the theme of the title, which is taken from Thomas Hardy's *The Convergence of the Twain*, a poem about the loss of the *Titanic*. Hardy is concerned with destiny: "Till the Spinner of the Years said 'Now!'". Douglas Hurd prints the whole poem as an introduction to his book, so one begins reading the novel supposing that it will deal with the collisions of history, the power of fate, and Tolstoyan questions of that sort.

The novel does nothing of the kind. It has a plot, but that is more of a device for writing about government than an unwinning of destiny. The main issues, Ireland, a civil war in Russia, even the succession to the prime ministership, are less than fully resolved. The book's emotional urgency springs from a quite different source. The key quotation is not from Thomas Hardy, but from Robert Walpole: "They now ring the bells, but they will soon wear their hands." Douglas Hurd's Prime Minister, who seems to have a good deal of Douglas Hurd and of Stanley Baldwin in him, quotes Walpole in

his big speech to the House of Commons, which is, rather implausibly, brimming with enthusiasm for war with Russia.

The fictitious Prime Minister continues: "Madam Speaker, I have felt like Sir Robert Walpole in these last days. We are not sent here to impose our solutions on the troubles of the world. We are not elected ministers of universal justice... those of us who propose compromises are shabby, unexciting creatures compared with those who ride on a white horse and promise drama and victory... we owe this House, we owe our constituents our judgment, a judgment that must look further than tomorrow's headlines... the Queen's ministers are not here to craft and polish shiny reputations for themselves. We are here to carry on her government, energetically but soberly."

This was indeed the creed by which Douglas Hurd conducted himself when he was a minister. He was trained in the Foreign Office, and he retains a strong sympathy with the Civil Service point of view. His genuine sense of detachment served him well as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, where it helped him to be fair in his relationship with both communities. It also served him well in the Home Office; those of us who were involved with his work on broadcasting were impressed by his impartiality. Perhaps it served him less well when he came to the Foreign Office itself. His novel seeks to rebut the criticism of his non-interventionist policy over Bosnia. There is, however, no doubt that his political career, which took him to two of the highest offices of state, was both honourable and constructive.

Yet one wonders whether this approach to government is adequate, or even acceptable. Douglas Hurd writes of two other characters, a Chancellor rather like Margaret Thatcher and a Home Secretary rather like Kenneth Clarke. They are both allowed a public impact, a political forcefulness, which he does not claim for the character he has

drawn from himself. Yet this is not just a question of temperament. The question is whether his mandarin philosophy of politics, though it has many classic precedents, is really the right way to govern.

It is certainly hierarchical. At the top there are responsible ministers, resembling Plato's Guardians, who form a detached but benign view of the long-term interest of the State. They are advised and supported by civil servants of an even more priestly character; these are the loyal servants to their political masters, but they also owe a higher loyalty to pure reason. The people are seen as so many children: indeed the only member of the Prime Minister's family who shares the public enthusiasm for bombing Moscow is shown as a rebellious teenager.

The public needs to be protected from itself, to be cared for, if necessary against its wishes, by the superior understanding of the civil servants and ministers.

The enemy is the press. One of the few points at which I disagreed with Douglas Hurd's description of it was in his account of the relationship between politicians and journalists. He describes this relationship as uniformly manipulative on both sides, though he seems to have a soft spot for my colleague Peter Riddell, whose column he parodies. My own experience of this relationship is that it varies quite widely; usually it is purely professional, sometimes it is antagonistic, sometimes it develops into genuine and lasting friendship. Some politicians and some journalists can be trusted; others not. Some have a rapport with each other; others not.

Douglas Hurd's distrust of journalists, and of their properties, is part of his broader hostility to the media. He sees the media as intruding on private life, but worse than that, as intruding on the private business of government. The chief sin of the media is to whip up public opinion so that a childlike public will insist that politicians follow popular

policies against their better judgment. This is the Book of Genesis view of politics: the Cabinet is a sort of collective deity; the civil servants are the angels and archangels; the public consists of Adam and Eve and the media is the serpent who tempts their innocence. Without the press the public would not have eaten of the tree of knowledge, and would do what they were told by a benevolent higher authority.

One can see the influence of this on the construction of Europe. The constitution of the European Union is indeed non-democratic: it is designed to maximise the power of unelected bureaucrats and judges, to defend politicians against popular pressures, to maintain the secrecy of the decision-making process, and, when thought necessary, to override public opinion, as German public opinion on the mark has been overruled. Douglas Hurd has, all his political life, been a "good European".

His theme makes Douglas Hurd's novel a more important book than most political memoirs. Perhaps it helps to explain the progressive alienation of the Major administration from public opinion which led to its disastrous defeat last May. It certainly helps to explain the alienation of the media. It unavoidably raises the cultural issue about Europe— is Europe to be an open society or a bureaucratic one? It raises the reciprocal character of trust: why should the people trust the government, if the government does not trust them?

Perhaps most interesting is the question of whether Tony Blair's Government is different in this respect from John Major's. Certainly they consult opinion research very avidly. Yet new Labour's insistence that every Labour Minister of Parliament should be "on message", and the importance given to the spin-doctors, suggests that they, too, may distrust the public and dislike the media; they may see the media as a dangerous, because uncontrollable, influence on public opinion.

Douglas Hurd is a high-minded statesman. On the evidence of his novel he gives only two cheers for democracy. It is noteworthy that Margaret Thatcher, who was much more authoritarian with colleagues and civil servants, had a much stronger faith in the soundness of the judgment of the British people.

William Rees-Mogg

## The Sean Connery question

Why shouldn't expat Scots give cash, asks Magnus Linklater

I intend to talk about Sean Connery. Donald Trump and possibly even Bill Gates when I give evidence to the Neill committee next week. I am sure they will appreciate the injection of a little glamour and gossip after weeks of trawling through the arcane details of party political funding in Britain. It will all, I hasten to add, be in the higher interests of the State.

It was after the embarrassing affair last November of Bernie Ecclestone and his £1.5 million donation to the Labour Party that the Neill Committee on Standards in Public Life was asked to look at how political parties in Britain are funded and on what they spend their money. Since then Lord Neill of Bladen and his team have been reaching deep into our political system and coming up with evidence of a complexity to make the head reel. Next week they come to Scotland, where they will find not only that they are dealing with a whole new constitutional set-up, but that they are in the eye of a political storm. The funding issue has become part of a pre-election battle.

It began with the identity of a mystery donor, a Scot living abroad, who had donated between £80,000 and £100,000 to the Scottish National Party. Initially, the SNP refused to disclose to Lord Neill the identity of this person, until embarrassed officials realised that they might be open to precisely the charges of secrecy and sleaze that they had once hurled at Labour. Then they disclosed what everybody had guessed, that it was Sean Connery, famous tax exile and Scottish patriot. Nothing wrong with that—the actor has never made any secret of his politics, and there is currently no constraint on any individual at home or abroad supporting the party he loves.

That, however, is set to change. The Government has announced that it intends to ban "foreign donations"; the Neill committee is looking at what that means. On the surface it would appear to bar Mr Connery from giving funds to the SNP. In fact, it would do no such thing. He may live in Marbella, but he holds a British passport and the funds almost certainly came from a British-based bank. Anyway, says the SNP, why should the other parties, all of whom have UK headquarters, be allowed to channel money to Scotland from London, while the nationalists are prevented from soliciting support from enthusiastic Scots living abroad?

What, for instance, if Donald Trump, whose mother comes from the island of Lewis, decided that independence was the best bet for Scotland? Or if Bill Gates, whose mother was also Scottish, thought that saving the Union was vital for the future of Microsoft, and started channelling funds into the coffers of the Labour Party? Neither has shown any such inclination, but you never know. One test might be the holding of a British passport, which would exclude another millionaire, David Rockefeller, whose great-grandmother was Scottish. On the other hand, it would be restricted even more, to those with voting rights in Britain—that would still include Mr Connery but exclude Mrs Trump.

What, then, about fund-raising abroad? There is now a Tartan Day in the United States, which could be used to garner donations to Scottish parties rather than St Patrick's Day raises for Sinn Féin or the SDLP. Anyone giving more than £5,000, the current suggested limit for anonymous donations, would have to declare themselves, but there would presumably be no need to disclose this collective source of foreign funds, unless there was an outright ban.

More important is the issue of companies. Mr Ecclestone did not make his donation purely for his own benefit, but in the interests of his worldwide Formula One organisation. The proposed government ban is aimed as much at foreign-based companies as at individuals. So all those subsidiaries of Hyundai, Chungwa, Nissan or Hewlett Packard, based in Britain but with headquarters abroad, would be excluded from the British political process. Is this entirely fair? Why should General Accident, which has moved its headquarters out of Scotland, or Scottish Widows, which might do the same if the going gets tough, be allowed to make a donation to party funds, while, for instance, Cadence Design System, a Californian-based company which has reversed the trend and invested in spectacular effect in the Scottish electronics industry, be forbidden?

How much I will be able to help the committee on these taxing matters remains to be seen. Even my esteemed colleague Peter Riddell, who knows far more about them than I do, concluded that the committee was taking on the labours of Hercules. In the end, however, the best approach for Lord Neill is surely to aim for maximum openness and minimum interference. Scottish voters are no different from their English counterparts. They will want to know who is giving what and why, but they will not warm greatly to rules and regulations which limit the rights of an individual, for better or for worse, to put his money where his mouth is.

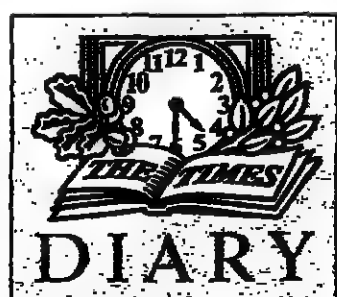
## Pork snatching

LORD ROTHERMERE has pinniped the Tamworth Two, Sundance and Butch, the pigs who spent seven nights on the run after escaping from a Wilshire abattoir—inspiring a frenzied media search—were placed in a local animal sanctuary by the *Daily Mail*. But, despite guarantees that the creatures would remain put, they have now been moved to a farm in Kent with which Rothermere, the newspaper's proprietor, is closely associated. The pigs, lauded as the greatest escapees since Colditz, were rewarded with an apparently cushy retirement at the Langley Wild Animal Rescue Centre after the *Mail* bought them amid a tabloid bidding war. The sanctuary does not charge for entry and employs people with special needs to run it. The *Mail* trumpeted the pigs' agreeable lifestyle, describing the comforts of the sanctuary and pointing out that Sundance and Butch were putting on weight.

"I had to keep them under lock and key," says Kevin Stinchcombe, who runs the rescue centre. "We were inundated, they have become an enormous crowd-puller." Three weeks ago, however, the *Mail* arranged for the pigs to be moved to Badzel Park Farm, near Tonbridge, Kent. The rescue centre was told the move would be temporary. But the farm is to issue notices claiming the pigs as permanent attractions. It charges £4.50 a visit, which raises cash for the Wildlife Trust, of which Rother-

mere is its major fundraiser. "The pigs belong to the *Mail*," says Vyvyan Harmsworth, Rothermere's cousin. "They were found a home with Mr Stinchcombe on a lodging basis. In no way were the pigs given to him."

●SUNDAY'S service in memory of Mother Teresa at Westminster Central Hall will see Ann Widdecombe seated next to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary—the man who, according to gossip, she will shadow after the next reshuffle. May Teresa be blessing her



hopes from above? "I don't know, but I might pray to St Jude, the patron saint of lost causes," Ms Widdecombe tells me.

### Dinner date

"EX-Chancellor for hire. Proven entertainer will consider all offers for speeches at rugby club dinners and supermarket openings. Edith Piaf impression a speciality." Such is the kind of CV that Norman Lamont might soon be touting. He has been signed up by a major West End celebrity agency to maximise his earning potential.

Food for Sport, purveyors of speakers for sporting dinners and corporate blow-outs, boasts such heavy hitters as Jimmy Greaves, Vivienne Jones, Frank Bruno, Kenny Ball, Paul Daniels and the Gladiators. "There is a big market for en-

tertaining speakers who are famous," says Stanley Jackson, the managing director. "We arrange for them to do voiceovers, award ceremonies and make personal appearances, as well as after-dinner speeches." He is convinced that Lamont has the comic genius to become a cabaret turn. A night with Norman will cost £4,000, although for £35,000 companies can retain his services for a whole week. No boxing dinner would be complete without the man who sustained a shiner outside a ladies' residence in curious circumstances. Advertising might now appeal to the ex-MP, which it did not when he forced a Visa ad off air: the commercial featured Lord Healey

mocking Lamont outside Threshers'. A possible opening number? Je ne regrette rien.

●FIRST Keith Richard injured himself reaching for a book in his library. Now for conclusive proof that the Rolling Stones should give up the pretence that they are still rock stars. The group's singer, Mick Jagger (pictured), has not requested dancing girls, peculiar pills or outside limousines for the Stones' forthcoming Russian tour. Instead, he has rather confused the Moscow authorities by demanding the use of a full-sized snooker table before they perform. "We were very ashamed because we didn't know anything about snooker. The Stones explicitly stated that they wanted a table for snooker and not for pool which is an American game. They are clearly great patriots."

### Rebel cause

AND now for America's contribution to the peace. Steven Spielberg's next film threatens to be about as constructive as an Ian Paisley majority in the new assembly. After falling in love with the green island during the shooting of *Saving Private Ryan*, the director wants to return to make a film of the 1798 Irish rebellion against the



British, in which about 150,000 locals lost their lives.

●THE perils of the stage. Tracy Ann Oberman (pictured), who is stirring Chichester audiences on Saturday, Sunday, Monday, has received a barbed bouquet. An admirer sent her flowers. "There were a couple of red hot pokers sticking out, and one caught me in the eye," she says. "I had to go on with a big patch, avoiding the furniture."

JASPER GERARD

## A MATTER OF DECORATION

One hundred years after the end of the First World War, the British Empire is being celebrated. A Bill is being introduced to award the Medal of the British Empire to those who served in the Gallipoli campaign. The original intention was to honour those who served in the Gallipoli campaign, but it has since been expanded to include those who served in the First World War. The Bill is being introduced by the Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair. The Medal of the British Empire is a new award, which will be given to those who served in the Gallipoli campaign. The original intention was to honour those who served in the Gallipoli campaign, but it has since been expanded to include those who served in the First World War. The Bill is being introduced by the Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair. The Medal of the British Empire is a new award, which will be given to those who served in the Gallipoli campaign.





## FAIR VOTES

Referendums need to be regulated

Today the citizens of Denmark enjoy a right which the Irish have recently exercised but which is, for no very good reason, denied the British voter. The Danes will vote in a referendum on the Amsterdam treaty. The treaty is dismissed by its own architects as merely a technical exercise in tidying up the loose ends left after Maastricht. Those loose ends are, however, tied in such a way as further to constrict the freedoms of independent nations. The *Times* argued last June that the treaty was a "technical mess" and a "political betrayal of European democracy". It will erode the influence of the national veto and transfer power in a federalising fashion to the European Parliament. The Danes should, in their own interests and those of a Europe, say no.

However the Danes answer the referendum question, there are questions which our own Prime Minister must face. Should Denmark say no, then there will be considerable pressure on Tony Blair to invite the Danes to think again. When the Danes rejected the Maastricht Treaty in 1992 their mature democratic judgment was regarded as the impertinence of the untutored. After some minor diplomatic tinkering they were cajoled to the polls again and, recognising that Brussels would not take no for an answer, they fell into line. Mr Blair, as President of the EU, should not relapse into the arrogant posture of the past if the Danes say no again. The Foreign Office Minister, Doug Henderson, told the House of Commons last July that if any EU member failed to ratify the treaty then "it could not be implemented in its current form". That commitment must be honoured. A Danish "no" should mean a renegotiation.

The decision in 1992 to rerun the Danish referendum points to one of the problems with plebiscites. Without strict rules to govern their operation then they can be manipulated by elites who wish to corral and conscript, rather than measure and test,

public opinion. The referendums in Ulster, Scotland and Wales were conducted before the legislation to give effect to voters' wishes had been framed. Pre-legislative referendums are invitations to buy pigs in pokes.

Those referendums were conducted without proper guidelines on funding, timing or broadcasts to constrain the executive. Although the results in Scotland and Ulster were clear enough to signal support for change, a close result, as in Wales, can lead to questions about the legitimacy of the vote. As Michael Pinto-Duschinsky pointed out on the opposite page on Tuesday, and as Viscount Cranborne gave warning in the Lords on May 13, the health of our democracy depends on future referendums being conducted in accordance with rules which command broad acceptance.

The need for safeguards will be all the more urgent if the nation is called upon to vote in referendums on the electoral system or membership of the euro. The creation of an "independent" committee to investigate alternatives to the voting system which is packed with proponents of change, and the early efforts by Government to massage opinion in favour of the single currency, make vigilance vital. As well as framing rules to guarantee fairness in funding and broadcast access, the adoption of a threshold, as Dr Pinto-Duschinsky suggested, would help entrench the legitimacy of any referendum result.

No golf club changes its constitution without a fixed proportion of the entire membership agreeing, so why should the nation? If 40 per cent of the workforce is required to vote before a trade union can demand recognition, then why should a threshold not apply to constitutional changes, which are much more difficult to reverse than employment relations? Voters deserve an answer from the Government on these issues before they can be expected to give their answers in referendums.

## COUNTRY GUARDIANS

Whitehall must be more imaginative in protecting rural Britain

The size, strength and impact of the Countryside March through London in March took its organisers by surprise as much as the Government. But they have been quick to exploit the advantage and the publicity. Calling on the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to take urgent action to save Britain's countryside, farmers and rural leaders yesterday presented a long list of demands which they say have been ignored too long. The main one is lower interest rates to reduce the high value of the pound, which has hit farm exports and price guarantees particularly hard. But their grievances also include the high cost of rural housing, poor public transport, uncertain job prospects and a host of pettylogging regulations that have often militated against new initiatives and limit flexibility.

Britain's rural economy still depends largely on farming, and the rise in the pound has certainly been damaging. Not only has it made exports in this intensely competitive field too expensive, but because of the complex operation of the green pound and the link to intervention support, a rise in sterling's value cuts the amount British farmers receive in subsidy. This reduction comes at a time when farmers are still reeling from the economic and psychological shock of "mad cow" disease and when morale has rarely been lower. The recent fat years of farmyard prosperity have only underlined the bitterness at the onset of lean times.

If yesterday's call were merely the disgruntled complaints of a powerful lobby, it would merit little attention. Farmers cannot be isolated from the economic cycle any more than miners or steelworkers. Nor can demands for housing relief or other measures that buck the market escape suspicions of featherbedding. Yet there is no

doubt that the health of the countryside is linked to a vibrant agricultural economy. What has hurt the countryside is that this economy has been crudely distorted by the working of the Common Agricultural Policy, with its notorious encouragement of overproduction, the grubbing out of hedgerows and intensive farming methods that ruin the ecology as well as the landscape.

A reform of the CAP — and farmers' own addition to it — is a first essential step in restoring balance. But a reform in attitude must go alongside. Farmers, the bedrock of Britain's yeoman stock, are increasingly also *de facto* guardians of a landscape that shapes us all, town-dwellers and countrymen alike. This role should be recognised and extended. And inasmuch as that needs special support, Whitehall cannot insist that the market alone determine the health of rural Britain. Village schools and rural colleges may be less cost-efficient than those in cities, but they are no less vital in preparing a properly educated workforce. Rural buses and trains may need subsidies, but without them villages wither and die. Bankruptcy hurts any community; but rural foreclosures do lasting and often irreparable damage, and imaginative ways are needed to help farmers through the present hard times.

There is also much that can be done that is simple and cheap. A recent pamphlet by the Social Market Foundation details changes in rigid planning and commercial regulation that would encourage village regeneration. Why not encourage small additions to existing villages, relax bans on different commercial activities under one roof or allow private cars to function as village taxis? The Countryside March brought promises of Government concern; now it is time to deliver.

## A MATTER OF HONOUR

Decorations are rarely won by those who lobby

One hundred years after the minor battle which made him a hero, Theodore Roosevelt, later 26th US President, may be decorated. A Bill now before the US Congress proposes that he be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honour, the highest gallantry decoration. Its 158 sponsors argue that the original recommendation was blocked for political reasons, as it had to be approved by the same Secretary of War whose incompetence Teddy Roosevelt had so roundly criticised; the centenary of Roosevelt's "crowded hour" is thought to be the appropriate time to recognise the martial endeavours of a President whose political reputation has never been higher.

Such an award would have its precedents. Congressional pressure was instrumental in the recent, well-merited honouring of seven Second World War veterans, originally denied the Medal because they were black. The Victoria Cross was awarded to a casualty of the Indian Mutiny 48 years after his death, and to Lieutenant Coghill and Melville nearly three decades after they fell defending the South Wales Borderers' colours at Isandhlwana. Others have lived to receive belated honours. Two reluctant civilians bribed by Winston Churchill to drive a train out of a Boer ambush did not receive their promised decoration until the

General James L. Day finally received the Medal of Honour he had been recommended for in 1945, after colleagues secured the decoration he had been too modest to claim for himself.

But Colonel Roosevelt was denied for more than political reasons. His stoking of the publicity surrounding the action in which he fought, and his detailed accounts of his own conduct, were widely seen as lobbying for a decoration he was known to covet. Many felt that in seeing it as a useful political accessory, he was abusing the Medal and its holders. Ultimately he had no need of the Medal: victory itself, the mystique of his Rough Riders and his proven abilities, were enough to secure for him the governorship of New York and, eventually, the White House.

Would an award now have any value? Unlike the cases of the black veterans, there is no historical wrong to be set right. Roosevelt was denied as much for his presumption as for any ruffled political feathers; he obtained his reward in popular acclaim and presidential office. But most veterans have no such public affirmation. In every war, countless acts of gallantry go unrecognised. Governments do better to honour modest anonymous heroes such as James L. Day than bolster the reputations of men who sought glory in their own lives and

## 'Yes' to peace — and what else?

From Mr Paul Rowlandson

Sir, Now that the euphoria over the "yes" vote is beginning to lessen, perhaps a calmer evaluation of the Mitchell agreement, and the campaign in support of it, can take place.

The agreement contains many highly controversial features which have not, in my view, received adequate attention. Prominent among these are the affirmative action implications of the section on "Rights, Safeguards and Equality of Opportunity". This promises to eliminate progressively the differential in unemployment rates between the two communities. In other words, it aims to achieve equality of outcome rather than equality of opportunity. Such measures, requiring preferential treatment on the basis of religion, are bound to exacerbate sectarian animosities.

One clause commits the assembly to work for the "advancement of women in public life"; another affirms their right to "full and equal political participation". These clauses appear to grant rights to women on the basis of their gender, above any rights they may possess as individuals.

Nobody can hold office who refuses to sign the "pledge of office", which commits all office holders "to promote equality". This implies that no elected representative can hold office who is not committed to an egalitarian dogma.

These issues were not discussed during the referendum campaign, which was the most imbalanced, one-sided and manipulative political campaign that I, an Englishman living in Ireland for the past 24 years, have ever had the misfortune to witness. All the resources of Government and the media were used in support of the propaganda that a vote against the agreement was a vote against peace.

It was about as far from a free and fair election as it is possible to get. The result was politically decisive but morally invalid.

Yours sincerely,  
PAUL ROWLANDSON,  
42 Hillview Avenue,  
Londonderry BT47 2NU.  
p.rowlandson@ulst.ac.uk  
May 25.

From Dr Philip R. Thomas

Sir, Mr Ian Paisley and his followers have always argued that there should be no change in Northern Ireland without the democratic consent of the people of Ulster. Now the people have spoken by more than two to one against Mr Paisley, his argument appears to have altered from requiring the consent of the majority of the people to one of demanding the consent of the majority of the minority.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP R. THOMAS,  
439 Clock Face Road,  
St Helens, Merseyside WA9 4QL  
May 26.

## Education spending

From Mr John Beattie

Sir, In his article on the Government's attempt to reallocate public spending "No chance, Prime Minister" (May 18), Peter Riddell is right to identify education action zones (the groups of 25 or so schools which are to be given extra government support in return for offering themselves as an experiment in educational improvement) as an example of innovative thinking. He is certainly misguided, however, to imply that they can only succeed by "challenging the local council/union monopoly".

If education action zones are to bring lasting improvement, they will have to be grounded in the community, draw on local government's detailed knowledge of its area and engage the expertise and commitment of the teaching profession. Only bidders themselves committed to such equal partnerships should be considered. Quick-fix merchants imported from the US and our own private sector will produce superficial short-term solutions which will not survive the three to five years of their contracts. Not only will there be a surfeit of management and bureaucracy, but much-needed public funds will be translated into financial rewards to shareholders rather than permanent educational gains for the community.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN BEATTIE  
(Senior Vice-President, Association of Teachers and Lecturers),  
115, Clyst St Mary, Exeter EX5 1BB.  
May 19.

## Vitamin B6 dosage

From Mr Harry Ganz

Sir, I totally agree with your leading article, "A B6 a day" (May 15), criticising the decision of the Food Safety Minister, Jeff Rooker, to restrict the "free" sale of vitamin B6 to tablets under 10mg. Vitamin B6 has a definite role in today's stressful society and has a proven safety record.

However, I would like to point out that vitamin B6, in dosages of up to 50mg, will still be available in pharmacies, where a pharmacist will always be available to give advice if required.

Yours faithfully,  
HARRY GANZ,  
The Garden Pharmacy,  
119 Long Acre, W2E 9PA.  
sales@garden.co.uk

## PoW demonstrations against visit of Japan's Emperor

From Mr Martin Conway

Sir, The display put forward by the PoWs was uncalculated. I recognise that they suffered tremendously at the hands of the Japanese, but it has to be remembered that war does terrible things to both nations and people.

After nearly fifty years of trying to solve international problems peacefully, do we really need the disrespect not only to a foreign head of state, but also to our own Sovereign, that was displayed on The Mall (reports, May 27)? We do not expect such resentment from countries that have suffered from the actions of our own nation. The actions of some Japanese cannot be used to judge a whole nation, particularly not a child who just happens fifty years later to be the Emperor.

Yours sincerely,  
MARTIN CONWAY,  
Flat 3, Birch Court, 55 Canning Road,  
Wealdstone, HA3 7SP.  
May 27.

From Mr Ernie Sweeney

Sir, As a postwar child I have always deeply regretted the shameful behaviour of successive British Governments towards the survivors of Japanese prison camps.

That Japan did not atone for its terrible crimes is the direct fault of the Allies. To claim that past treaties prevent further examination and reparation is totally dishonest and disgraceful. HMG knows that it can do whatever it wants to do, including paying adequate compensation right now to the surviving victims before they too are dead.

Yours sincerely,  
ERNE SWEENEY,  
349 Upper Shoreham Road,  
Shoreham by Sea, Sussex BN43 5NB.  
e.c.s@btinternet.com  
May 27.

From Sir Michael Burton

Sir, As the son of a highly decorated officer who fought throughout the Burma campaign and the nephew of a

Japanese prisoner-of-war camp survivor I have the greatest sympathy with the veterans who protested in The Mall yesterday.

But to expect an official apology from Emperor Akihito is asking too much. No two cases are, of course, quite the same: but there exists a parallel in the state visit paid by our own Queen to the Czech Republic in 1996. The connecting link is the Munich agreement of 1938 which was similarly infamous in condemning the Czechoslovak people to Nazi invasion and eventually to occupation. The suffering of the Czechs, of which the extermination of the village of Lidice stands as the symbol, flowed partly from this action of the then British Government.

Like the Japanese Emperor the Queen made a speech at a state banquet. A straightforward apology for Munich would have been out of place, since it would have been to gloss over the difficulties we would have had in facing up to Hitler at that point rather than later when we were better prepared.

So what Her Majesty said was that she understood and sympathised with the feelings of the Czechs on the subject of Munich. Honour was satisfied and, I believe, a line was drawn under this vexed issue in British-Czech relations. The behaviour of the Japanese cannot be similarly excused, but the Emperor's expression of regret should perhaps be accepted in the same spirit.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL BURTON  
(Ambassador to the Czech Republic, 1994-97),  
6 Napier Court,  
Ranelagh Gardens, SW6 3UT.  
May 27.

From Mr Christopher Long

Sir, Two heads of state can lay on lavish receptions for each other at public expense, but neither of them is permitted to comment on any "political" topic of everyday concern to their people. Indeed, they appear to be the only in-

dividuals in the land without a view on the hottest topic of the day and one which causes deep distress or confusion among thousands of their respective subjects. Isn't life odd?

Sincerely,  
CHRISTOPHER LONG,  
48 Vincent Square, SW1P 2NR.  
calong@btinternet.co.uk  
May 27.

From Mr Stanley G. Simpson

Sir, What the Emperor of Japan should have said, after his installation as a Knight of the Garter, was "As the Emperor I am unable to apologise as I am bound by the Constitution of Japan; but as a Japanese knight of the noble Order of the Garter I most humbly apologise for the treatment of the prisoners of war of the Japanese, for as a knight I am bound by the code of conduct of the Order."

In that way the prisoners of war could feel satisfied, and, to make their day, the Prime Minister, abetted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, could authorise adequate compensation for the survivors.

Yours faithfully,  
S. G. SIMPSON,  
11 Seagrave Road,  
Beaconsfield,  
Buckinghamshire HP9 1SU.  
May 27.

From Mr Gerry Hanson

Sir, For civilised people, the flag of a nation with whom we are not now at war should be sacrosanct. It deserves our respect, even if past actions of that nation do not.

On Tuesday in The Mall, an understandable and otherwise acceptable demonstration of feelings was robbed of its dignity and worth by the burning of the Japanese flag.

Yours truly,  
GERY HANSON,  
Potters Lodge,  
74a Slough Road, Iwer Heath,  
Buckinghamshire SL0 0DY.  
May 27.

## Future of Arts Council

From the Chairman of the Arts Council of England

Sir, Recent days have seen much misrepresentation relating to the future role of the governing body (the council) of the Arts Council and its links with its advisory bodies (letters, May 21, 23). I have today written to all Arts Council panel members serving when I took up my appointment. My letter states that the position remains as follows.

The governing body will in future number about ten and those ten will not directly represent particular interests, reflecting widespread recognition that a slimmer and more effective governing body is needed. It will, however, include figures of stature in the arts world.

The chairman and chief executive of the Arts Council will meet each panel annually and will meet each panel chairman with the appropriate art-form director several times each year to air matters relating to that art form and to ensure that their specialist advice is properly understood.

Panel chairmen will also have the opportunity to attend and take part in council discussions of substantive matters of particular relevance to their art-form. Direct access to the governing body will be at whatever regularity is necessary to ensure good and well informed governance.

Needless to say, the above arrangements will apply to all art forms, not just drama.

Yours sincerely,  
GERY ROBINSON,  
Chairman, Arts Council of England,  
14 Great Peter Street, SW1P 3NQ.  
May 27.

## Book prices

From Mr Terry Maher

Sir, I am surprised that William Rees-Mogg has fallen for the old line that the problems which face publishers are everybody's fault but their own ("A tale of tightly squeezed margins", May 18).

The fact is that general trade book publishers have concentrated far too much of their resources on unrealistically high advances to "bestselling" authors and have neglected the less fashionable areas of production and distribution. The result is that books are poorly produced and prices are too high; and it takes far too long to get books into bookshops.

The massive advances in printing technology in the past two decades should have brought book prices down — newspaper publishers know a little about this. And book wholesalers — who can deliver a book to a bookshop overnight rather than the seven to ten days typical for a publisher — have demonstrated the value of investment in modern and efficient computer-based delivery systems.

The Internet will have no more than a marginal impact on trade publishing houses. If they are to improve their profitability they will need to bring the poor relations of production and distribution in from the cold.

Yours sincerely,  
TERRY MAHER  
(Chairman, Maher Booksellers Ltd),  
33 Clarence Terrace,  
Regents Park, NW1 4RD.  
May 19.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

## RAC merger

From the Chief Executive Officer of The Royal Automobile Club

Sir, In her letter (May 16), Sheila McKechie, Director of the Consumers' Association, expresses concern that the proposed purchase of RAC Motoring Services by Candant, who also own Green Flag, could have a detrimental effect on consumers by further reducing competition. Your business report on the same day of the entry into the roadside assistance market of a substantial new player, Direct Line Rescue, shows how wide of the mark the Consumers' Association is.

Contrary to Sheila McKechie's assertion that entry to this market is difficult, Direct Line's move shows that it is relatively easy to set up a contractor-based breakdown service. Indeed, there are now already at least six breakdown services to choose from: prices start at low levels (eg, RAC cover from £39 per annum) and consumers have considerable choice of services available.

The proposed acquisition of RAC Motoring Services by Candant will further improve that choice by providing greater competition with the AA — significantly the biggest player in the market — and by widening the range of services available, such as providing car parking and travel discounts.

Yours faithfully,  
NEIL A. JOHNSON,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
The Royal Automobile Club,  
89-91 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5HS.  
May 18.

## Bankside art

From Mr Fletcher Robinson

Sir, Presumably City workers are part of the community which Mr Lars Nivve, Director of the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside, would like to involve in his plans (Interview, "Can Lars make sparks fly?", Arts, May 20).

I am a stockbroker and also, like many others in the City, a friend of the Tate and a passionate art-lover, in my case mainly of European paintings and drawings. I am concerned that the gallery appears to be planning to show "Turner Prize" art, to the exclusion of everything else.

That would be like having to subsist on a diet of caviar, or alternatively rice-water, depending on one's taste in these matters.

Yours faithfully,  
FLETCHER ROBINSON,  
66 Cadogan Square,  
London SW1X 0EA.  
May 20.

## Broken dreams

From Mr Colin Crosby

Sir, There are intimations of mortality even in the active elderly (letter from Mr C. J. Vickers, May 26).

I have been looking after the same team of — now veteran — rugby players for over 20 years. Whilst my services used to be required exclusively for torn muscles and snapped tendons, I am now dealing with bronchitis, arthritic joints and even cardiac rehabilitation.

Yours faithfully,  
COLIN CROSBY  
(Medical Director),  
Department of Exercise and Sports Medicine,  
The Garden Hospital,  
46/50 Sunny Gardens Road,  
London NW4 1RX.  
May 27.

Yours,  
J. BERRY,  
44 Ramshaw Drive, Chelmer Village,  
Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6UB.  
May 18.







**VICE-ADMIRAL SIR ERNLE POPE**

JOHN ROSKELL



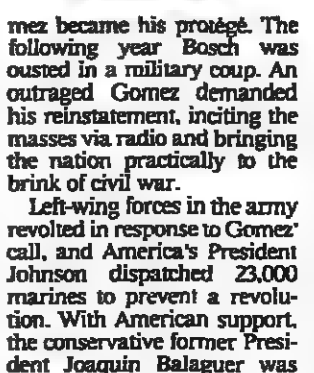
He married Evelyn Liddle in 1942. She died in 1989. He is survived by their son and daughter.

## JOHN PHILLIPS

**FRANCISCO PENA GOMEZ**

Stomach cancer was then diagnosed, and Gomez was shuttling between the United States and the Dominican Republic for treatment when he announced in January that he would run for Mayor of Santo Domingo.

He is survived by his wife, Peggy Cabral, their two sons and two daughters, and four children from two previous marriages.



## PERSONAL COLUMN

[illegible]

## COURT THEATRE

## THE SHADOW OF A GUN

By SEAN O'CASEY

[illegible]

## ON THIS DAY

**May 28, 1927**

*Sean O'Casey's The Shadow of a Gunman may not have been a particularly good play, but the critic felt that it did not deserve the "shrieks and yells and guffaws of merriment" which greeted it when it was performed at the Court Theatre in 1927.*

Hutchinson had to say; this coarse, callous laughter exploded continuously, the explosion occurring not seldom a minute or two after the point had passed, and the audience began to feel there was something wrong with their silence.

Yet the play is not in any marked degree a humorous play. That, indeed is its chief weakness: the comedy is tame to an audience who were determined to have their fun. When the poor coward of a poet, who is mistaken for a gunman "on the run" says, for instance, that it is not the gunman who is dying for the people, but the people who are dying for the

gunman — what better summary of the pitiable events of 1920? — there are prolonged roars and roars of laughter. When men lie shivering in their beds while a Black-and-Tan raid is in progress, an unbelievable crackle of laughter, lasting several minutes, drowns everything that is said on the stage. No wonder dramatists loathe the theatre!

Little more can be said of Mr. O'Casey's play or of the performing of it. How these players stuck to their guns and survived it all they alone can explain. During an occasional lapse in the line of the play, the audience is reminded of the work of Mr. Arthur Sinclair and Mrs. Sydney Morgan, the finish of Miss Maire O'Neill's sense of character, the practised skill with which all these Irish players bring to the smallest detail of stage "business" but these opportunities were both rare and brief. Given the chance, however, these actors and actresses can do uncommon things and bring uncommon beauty to birth in the theatre. The performance of *Synge's Riders to the Sea*, which preceded Mr. O'Casey's play, held an unalloyed poetry of feeling, and Miss Sarah Allgood was a marvelously true rendering of tragic emotion. Here, at least, the audiences were still, impressed by that emotion into forgetfulness of their clamorous desire to be amused.



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**BUSINESS ECONOMICS**

**Yeltsin cautions**

**Russia**

**By Janet Rangan**

**ANDREW GALE**

**BORIS YELTSIN**, president, has seen Russia's economy through an emergency. The Kremlin says prices have fallen 50 per cent as the country's currency has separately devalued.

The market speculation would no longer be profitable in so many ways. There is a huge budget and a national Monetary Fund. The new State Bank of Russia is a dramatic day when the country that had been in the red in the 1990s is now in the black.

**BA ready to benefit from American deal**

**By John A. ...**

**DELAYS** in approving an alliance between British Airways and American Airlines have blocked most of them of millions of pounds lost revenues BA has lost yesterday.

Bob Ayling, the BA executive, said BA had been ed enormously from BA using dominance in the market.

Comments to the BA-American deal said: "Our competition to the London market that would have had, had the agreement been produced, saw our profitability on the north Atlantic at record levels last year."

His remarks will fuel fears among rivals including United Airlines and Virgin Atlantic who have long claimed that BA-American will hold a hugely oppressive monopoly over transatlantic routes. The 60 per cent of services between the UK and America.

A Virgin spokesman said: "BA is trying to increase its market concentration and make even more money out of transatlantic routes. The deal concentrates market power in the hands of the two most vicious operators in the airline industry."

Last week, the US Department of Justice called for BA-American to be blocked, saying the deal would significantly reduce competition between America and the UK.

**Southgate b**  
**EMI is hit b**

**By Raymond Snoddy**

**SIR Colin Southgate**, chairman of the EMI Group, yesterday rejected claims that the breakdown of talks with Sagrament left the group in a precarious position in the competitive international music market.

The EMI chairman insisted that the group had never reached an agreement on figures for the sale of EMI's American assets.



# THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY MAY 28 1998

Yeltsin calls emergency meeting as rates soar to 150% and shares fall 13%

## Russian markets in turmoil

By JANET BUSH, CARL MORTIMER  
AND SARAH CUNNINGHAM

### BIG FALL IN FTSE AFTER RENEWED CHAOS IN ASIA

BORIS YELTSIN, Russia's President, has been forced to convene an emergency meeting at the Kremlin today as Moscow share prices plunged nearly 13 per cent and interest rates soared to 150 per cent as the central bank desperately defended the rouble.

The markets were engulfed by speculation that the Government would no longer be able to hold the rouble in its target trading range. There is increasing scepticism that Russia can plug the hole in its budget and so persuade the International Monetary Fund to disburse the next \$670 million (£410 million) tranche of a \$9.2 billion loan.

The dire budget situation was dramatically highlighted on Tuesday when the Government revealed that it had failed to get a single bid for its privatisation of Rosneft, the Siberian oil company.

THE LONDON STOCK MARKET endured big falls yesterday as renewed turmoil in Asia and the growing Russian financial crisis spilled over into Western markets (writes Alasdair Murray). The threat of a burgeoning US trade deficit, with the dollar hovering around a seven-year high against the yen, also cast a cloud.

The FTSE 100 index closed down 100.5, or 1.7 per cent, at 5870.2, with financial and pharmaceutical stocks hardest hit. Wall Street lost more ground, having fallen by 150 points on Tuesday.

Only 24 hours later, Alexander Braverman, the deputy state property minister, said that a new tender would be launched at a starting price of \$1.6 billion to \$1.7 billion dollars, 25 per cent less than the Government's \$2.1 billion target.

Economists said that only a swift announcement by the International

and was down about 115 points by the close in London. Other European markets also incurred heavy losses with the Frankfurt Dax falling 173.01 to 5466.88.

The pound, however, closed up against the mark following a warning from Mervyn King, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, that "stubbornly buoyant" consumption could still force inflation off-target. Sterling climbed from DM2.9980 to DM2.9051.

Overnight, Hong Kong had led other regional

choice but to announce its intention to do so shortly.

Those British companies that have invested in Russia were yesterday phlegmatic about the crisis in the markets. Unilever bought a Russian personal care company in 1994 and a margarine company this year, and it also exports various products

markets lower, losing 5.26 per cent following a warning that the island is on the verge of recession for the first time since records began in the early 1960s. The Nikkei in Tokyo also fell 1.4 per cent to 15,664.29.

Analysts predicted, however, that Western markets should be able to weather the latest storm. Traders are more worried that the problems in Russia could spread to the rest of Eastern Europe, raising questions over the exposure levels of many European banks.

on its motor business and it is in the process of selling them to Coca-Cola itself. Of the retailers, Littlewoods has pulled out of Russia while Storehouse still has three branches of Mothercare and two of Bhs in Russian cities, all franchises.

Hoteliers have taken a bolder view, with Rocco Forte one of the most recent Western operators to step in. His RF Hotels recently took over the Astoria and Anglerie hotels in St Petersburg. He is also developing a chain of executive hotels in Russia. "Stability is the key for us," a spokesman said.

"Many of our costs in Russia are in roubles, but most of the income is in foreign currencies, so it is the inbound business that is important and that has been very positive. We think that while there will no doubt be problems along the way, the process of reform is firmly embedded by now."

Commentary, page 29

## BA reaps benefits of American deal delay

By JON ASHWORTH

DELAYS in approving the alliance between British Airways and American Airlines have blocked rival carriers from Heathrow at a cost to them of millions of pounds in lost revenues, BA admitted yesterday.

Bob Ayling, the BA chief executive, said BA had benefited enormously from its continuing dominance at Heathrow. Commenting on the delays to the BA-American deal, he said: "Our competitors have lost opportunities for entering the London market that they would have had, had the agreement been produced. We saw our profitability on the north Atlantic at record levels last year."

His remarks will fuel fears among rivals including United Airlines and Virgin Atlantic, who have long claimed that BA-American will hold a hugely oppressive monopoly over transatlantic routes. The carriers will dominate close to 60 per cent of services between the UK and America.

A Virgin spokesman said: "BA is trying to increase its market concentration and make even more money out of transatlantic routes. The deal concentrates market power in the hands of the two most vicious operators in the airline industry."

Last week, the US Department of Justice called for BA-American to be blocked, saying the deal would significantly reduce competition between America and the UK.

BA yesterday announced pre-tax profits down 9.4 per cent at £580 million in the year to March 31. Sales rose 3.4 per cent to £8.6 billion.

Mr Ayling dismissed rumours that he might leave BA, saying he had given assurances to Sir Colin Marshall, the BA chairman. It has been suggested that Mr Ayling is being lined up for a senior political post.

Mr Ayling said: "I haven't received any offers, I don't expect to receive any offers, and I'm not seeking any offers. My chairman has, because of the rumours, asked me to confirm that he could count on my continuing with British Airways, and I was happy to tell him he could."

There has been talk of growing disquiet among BA non-executives and City institutions. Cost-cutting achieved savings of £250 million last year, rising to £750 million by 2000. BA is taking on 15,000 new staff over the next three years, but expects to lose 9,000 through voluntary redundancy.

Mr Ayling shrugged off talk of low morale, saying: "There's a very strong mood of optimism in the company."

BA shares slipped 13.5p to close at 636.4p. Fully diluted earnings per share were 17.3p, down from 19.7p a year ago. A final dividend of 11.9p a share makes a total for the year of 16.6p (15.05p) a share.

Tempos page 30



Bob Ayling says that while the AA alliance is in a regulatory holding pattern, BA dominates at Heathrow. The group reported full-year pre-tax profits of £580m

### Newcastle's chiefs resign in protest

SIR TERENCE HALL, the chairman of Newcastle United, and John Mayo, the senior non-executive at the company, resigned yesterday, having failed to force their attempts to make Sir John Hall reduce his influence over the club (writes Jason Nisse).

Sir John, whose family company, Cameron Hall, owns a 57 per cent Newcastle stake, was due to stand down as chairman of the football club subsidiary on Sunday. He only took on the role when his son, Douglas, and Freddy Shepherd, who was the football club chairman, resigned after insulting fans in a Sunday newspaper. Sir John is now planning to stay on.

### Powerscreen sees losses of £65m

By ADAM JONES

POWERSCREEN, the Northern Irish engineer, has said that losses for the year to March 31 will be more than six times larger than the board expected. The warning has also prompted the Stock Exchange to investigate heavy trading in the shares in recent days.

Powerscreen said in January that it faced a charge of about £47 million after financial irregularities were uncovered at its Matbro subsidiary, a matter the Serious Fraud Office is investigating. At the time, the group said the overall loss for the year was likely to be £10 million. Yesterday, it increased this to £65 million.

Powerscreen shares fell from 133.5p to 110.5p yesterday. The

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## Southgate bullish as EMI is hit by pound

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

SIR COLIN Southgate, chairman of the EMI Group, yesterday rejected City claims that the breakdown of takeover talks with Seagram left the group at a disadvantage in the competitive international music market.

"We can afford to spend as much money as we want on any album or artist we want," said Sir Colin, who does not believe that with Seagram's purchase of PolyGram there are any other possible large targets for EMI or realistic predators.

The EMI chairman insisted that the Seagram talks had never reached serious negotiations on figures. He was speaking as the company announced a

fore exceptional items for the year to March 31. At constant exchange rates the fall was 10 per cent to £342.4 million. On top of the strong pound there were "disappointing" performances in Japan and Germany, although EMI still had 32 releases that sold more than a million copies during the year.

Anthony de Larrinaga, of Panmure Gordon, the broker, said that for EMI it was "really Seagram or nothing" and it was time to get back to basics.

EMI's total dividend of 16p represents a 6.7 per cent rise. The current year is expected to see a modest rise in profit to about £315 million.

Commentary, page 29

## Sun Life of Canada float 'not delayed'

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

SUN LIFE of Canada yesterday insisted plans to demutualise next year had not been delayed by a scandal that has erupted in its home country.

The group's chief actuary has resigned in disgrace after a court in Ontario last month found him guilty of giving fraudulent evidence on behalf of Sun Life of Canada in 1995.

Robert Sharkey, who was vice-president of investments at the time, was found to have lied about the assets held in three funds run by the insurer. Mr Sharkey had testified that mortgages held in the funds were long term in order to match the insurer's long-term liabilities to its policyholders. In fact, a substantial number were found

to be short term investments. The £673 million (£284 million) black hole in the funds that could harm payouts.

Donald Stewart, newly appointed chief executive of Sun Life of Canada, and chief actuary at the time Mr Sharkey gave his controversial evidence, yesterday denied that policyholders were at risk from the revelations.

The firm's 300,000 policyholders in the UK are not affected because assets held by their policies are protected by the Department of Trade and Industry.

In April the Personal Investment Authority in the UK levied a record £600,000 fine on the company over its slow progress in settling 27,000 cases where it may have mis-sold personal pensions in the 1990s and early 1990s.



# Siebe's 'ninja managers' take on Japan's answer to Branson

BY MARTIN WALLER

IN A week dominated by clashes of culture between the British and Japanese ways of doing things, a UK company famous for its 'ninja managers' is facing a very oriental battle.

Siebe, the Windsor controls and engineering group that has grown to world-challenging size while remaining largely invisible to the British public, has become entangled in a battle with the board of a small subsidiary in Japan.

The British company owns 50.6 per cent

of Nemio-Lambda, a Japanese group that makes switches to turn on and off a range of telecoms and computer equipment. Siebe would now like to switch off permanently and with extreme prejudice, the employment of its founder and chairman and his allies on the board.

Rikihito Madarame, an entrepreneur who comes over as the Richard Branson of corporate Japan, running a company in which he claims every employee enjoys equal status, has counter-attacked with allegations that a multinational is attempting to impose a Western-style hierarchical

structure on the business. Mr Madarame, a devout Buddhist, has claimed that his company is run on 'spherical' rather than 'hierarchical' lines. This is not a view that cuts any ice with Siebe. 'This rather implies that it is run by committee,' said an admittedly baffled UK spokesman. 'That isn't the way this company operates — at the end of the day somebody has to make a decision.'

Siebe inherited its stake in 1996 when it bought Unitech, another British business. The company claims to have been made aware of 'alleged misconduct' by Mr

Madarame and fellow directors relating to use of company finances.

'These allegations were put to Mr Madarame about six weeks ago and he was asked to resign. He initially agreed and then a couple of days later changed his mind,' says Siebe. As a result the company will oppose the Madarame camp's re-election at an annual meeting in Tokyo next month and has nominated their replacements. Such an open rift, in the full public gaze of an annual meeting, is almost unknown in Japan, where disagreements are usually settled behind

closed doors. But Siebe's controlling majority means it will certainly carry the day.

By an odd irony, Siebe has adopted Eastern-style martial arts as a form of quality management. A couple of years ago the company unveiled its so-called 'Six Sigma' programme, an idea taken from US management practice, which entails turning loose a team of 30 'master black belts', as they are styled, managers with a brief to go into and put right any underperforming area of the business.

The announcement coincided with a certain craze in children's toys, and

Siebe's black belts were promptly dubbed 'ninja managers' by the press.

The company is playing down any suggestion of a disagreement over management styles with the spherically inclined Mr Madarame, insisting the dispute is merely over the allegations of misconduct which have also been taken up by the Japanese subsidiary's own auditors and are the subject of a special inquiry being carried out by the Japanese courts.

'It's a corporate governance issue,' said the Siebe spokesman. 'It's not a clash of cultures.'

## Cellnet launches £20m sales campaign

BY RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

CELLNET, the mobile telephone operator controlled by BT, yesterday launched the largest marketing campaign since it was formed in 1985. It wants to try to stem the loss of customers to rivals and build its subscriber base.

The £20 million advertising and direct mail campaign will draw attention to a series of initiatives that include: ending minimum contract periods; compensating customers automatically every quarter if they are signed up to an inappropriate plan; and offering discounts of up to 50 per cent through a family call discount scheme based on BT's Friends and Family.

There will also be a scheme called First for Firms, allowing businesses to choose 10 numbers which attract 10 per cent discounts at peak times and 50 per cent off-peak.

For those who choose to sign longer-term contracts there will be additional discounts of up to 15 per cent.

Peter Erskine, who became Cellnet managing director at the beginning of April, said the 'First' programmes such as 'First in Fairness' and 'First in Freedom' were all designed in the US so that news would not leak to their UK rivals before the scheme was introduced.

The new offers will be available to direct Cellnet digital customers from the beginning of July but Mr Erskine yesterday met independent operators to try to persuade them also to introduce the new package.

'Churn', or disconnections in the mobile telephone market, are running at between 20 and 30 per cent a year and Cellnet have been at the high end.

He hopes that within 12 months Cellnet's churn figures will be much closer to 20 per cent than 30 and that the customer base will continue to grow. If that happened, the scheme would pay for itself 'easily' in the first year.

'We are going hard and we are going fast and we will start to know the uptake by early autumn,' said Mr Erskine, who came to Cellnet — which has more than three million subscribers — from BT.

Mr Erskine said the aim of the initiative was to end 'confusion' in the market. In addition to the First packages, which would be 'for ever' and would be expanded, Cellnet also announced new tariff cuts and the introduction of its own pre-pay package, something that has been successful for other mobile operators.



Beating the furniture blues: Harvey Lipsith, front, and director Stan Kaufman

## Allders sales light up

ALLDERS, the department store chain, has shrugged off woes that have dogged the furniture sector to return underlying sales growth of 4.9 per cent over April and May.

Shares of the company added 3p to 229p yesterday after it turned in a pre-tax profit of £16.9 million (£16 million) for the six months to March 31 after an exceptionally strong Christmas.

Although its store card spoke for just over a quarter of sales over the six months, it managed to slightly increase gross margins from 5.6 per cent to 5.63 per cent.

The company also announced plans to open two more stores in Chester and Chichester, which will take its overall portfolio to 40.

Harvey Lipsith, chief executive, said the company is

continuing to build the Allders name and intends to roll out a few own-brand labels over the rest of this year.

He added that sales growth for the seven weeks to May 16 would have been 8.2 per cent, if the effects of the Easter sale had not been factored out.

An interim dividend of 3.4p (3p) is due to be paid on August 6.

## Anglian ignores Ofwat's dividend warning

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ANGLIAN WATER kicked off the reporting round by water companies yesterday with a high dividend rise which is expected to anger the industry regulator.

Anglian raised its dividend by 13 per cent despite having increased earnings by only 1.4 per cent. The increase, which is likely to be repeated by the other water companies, comes after repeated warnings from Ian Byatt, the regulator of Ofwat, about large dividend payments. The companies have outpaced other utilities and most of the FTSE companies with their returns to shareholders, causing concern among consumer groups and calls for tougher regulation.

Anglian boosted pre-tax profits by 32 per cent after exceptional results to £274.2 million. Last year's figures had been affected by restructuring costs while this year's were boosted by cost savings and a contribution from Hartlepool Water which Anglian bought last summer.

Pre-tax profits before exceptional results rose 4.2 per cent to £267.8 million. Earnings per share rose 1.4 per cent to 88p.

The company said it was braced for a tough pricing review in the year 2000. Mr Byatt is currently setting out the framework for the review which will be published next year and will take effect in the millennium. He is expected to impose a tough one-off cut in the charges made by the companies after having said that they have made greater than expected efficiencies.

Chris Mellor, the managing director, said Mr Byatt had 'a great opportunity to continue to incentivise us to world-class performance. On the other hand, if he gets it wrong, he could set the industry back ten years.'

Anglian raised its total dividend by 13 per cent to 39p with the final payment of 27.5p due on July 31.

## Boeing says delivery delays will continue

BOEING, the American aircraft company, said that Asia's economic crisis could add to its production problems and that delivery delays on its most popular model, the Next Generation 737, would continue through the year. Boeing said although most of its Asian customers have accepted their 1998 aircraft orders, the region's woes may mean a drag on future production rates, particularly for the Boeing 747 jumbo jets.

Boeing has been struggling since it attempted to dramatically boost aircraft production to meet rising demand. The Seattle company has gone from producing about 18 aircraft a month in April 1996 to 26 in 1997. It is planning to produce 49 aircraft a month by the end of this year. Boeing said it had delivered 34 aircraft so far in May, including all models, and plans to deliver about ten more by the end of the month. It also said it plans to deliver about 250 commercial jet transports in the first half of the year.

## Plan for Aerospatiale

THE French Government yesterday asked Yves Michot, the chairman of Aerospatiale, to submit proposals for floating the company in case this is necessary to forge alliances with other European companies. Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, said in a statement that flotation would help future large industrial programmes. Aerospatiale, announced earlier this month it was taking over the State's 46 per cent share in Dassault Aviation in order to streamline the French aerospace sector in preparation for European alliances.

## Lawrie shares up £5

LAWRIE GROUP, the AIM-listed food production company, raised pre-tax profits from £14.4 million to £26.4 million in the year to the end of December. Earnings rose from 338.07p to 699.23p and the total dividend rises from 93p to 98p. The company said that the first-quarter results in most parts of the country were encouraging with tea and coffee prices ahead of last year. It is anticipated that profits in the first half of this year will be substantially ahead of last year. The shares rose £5 to £47.50.

## Telemetrix to sell GTI

TELEMETRIX, the electronic equipment group, expects to raise £11.4 million from the sale of its stake in GTI Corporation to Technitrol Inc. The deal values GTI at £20.7 million. Telemetrix said it would reinvest the proceeds in Zenex and Trend, its two subsidiaries. Telemetrix said that for the first four months of the current year trading at its British operations were 'well ahead' of last year in spite of lower demand from the Asia Pacific region. Telemetrix shares were up 2p to 53p.

## BP to sell subsidiary

BP CHEMICALS is to sell Adibis, the lubricant and fuel additives business, to Lubrizol Corp of Ohio. It did not disclose financial details of the deal, but said Adibis, based in Surrey, had sales in 1997 of more than £100 million. BP Chemicals said it was 'focusing increasingly on the petrochemical sector and Adibis makes an excellent fit with Lubrizol's current business and future growth plans'. BP Chemicals expects 78 of Adibis's 165 staff to transfer to Lubrizol, while manufacturing staff will remain with BP Chemicals.

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.72	2.84
Austria S	21.41	10.75
Belgium F	63.15	55.19
Canada C	2.50	2.51
Cyprus Cyp	0.88	0.87
Denmark Kr	11.87	10.76
France F	10.22	9.44
Germany DM	3.07	2.83
Greece Dr	327	488
Hong Kong \$	15.48	12.28
Iceland Is	1.21	1.12
Ireland P	0.55	0.56
Italy Lira	3042	2905
Japan Yen	239.58	222.03
Netherlands Gld	0.77	0.81
New Zealand \$	3.20	2.85
Norway Kr	13.88	12.52
Portugal Esc	310.18	288.15
S Africa Rd	5.10	5.14
Spain Ptas	283.47	268.88
Sweden Kr	13.88	12.48
Switzerland Fr	2.56	2.54
Turkey Lira	401.408	401.028
USA \$	1.738	1.585

Notes for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



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BT

Full year loss by 20% at

By CHRIS AYLES  
ENERGIS, the telecoms division of National Grid which floated on the Stock Exchange last year, yesterday said it had reduced pre-tax losses by 20 per cent from £7.5 million to £6 million for the year ended March 31. The company said that the movement in its pre-tax loss was a 2 per cent share, was a pre-tax loss of £1.5 million in 1997. Analysts expect the group to make its first profit next year.

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# Sir Colin enters the New Age



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Sir Colin Southgate has discovered an affinity for New Age music. It is, he says, very gentle and melodic. This sounds like the perfect antidote to what has been going on at EMI of late. Sir Colin is now happy to eschew the talk of mega mergers. Thanks to Edgar Bronfman Jr's decision to plunge £6.5 billion on buying PolyGram, the marriage market for major music businesses has been brought to a halt. To a background of soothing guitars, Sir Colin can enjoy a welcome freedom from takeover threat and continue the friendly discussions that might lead to him buying a small New Age business in the US.

There are plenty of independent labels around for EMI to add to its record stack, but the fact that the company's own independence seems almost guaranteed will undoubtedly disappoint some investors. Of the world's big six music companies, Seagram was the only one that could have taken a partner without hitting hard against monopolies objections — and even now it may face some protestations in the US and France to its PolyGram deal. It is hardly flattering for Sir Colin to have to admit that, once Seagram had walked away from its flirtation with his organisation, no financial buyers stepped in a bid. Kirk Kerkorian made for some fun, but did not even suggest a meeting. If the equity funds that are splashing cash around so generously were

not tempted to take a punt on EMI, that is a message investors should take to heart. The company is not a horde of secret treasures waiting to be unlocked. But what yesterday's figures make clear is that EMI is a basically strong business in a difficult market place. For a company in the entertainment world, it has also proved to be peculiarly inept in its public relations. It is hard to imagine that boardroom problems could have been handled in a more destabilising way.

Even now, investors have reason to be unhappy about the huge payment made to ease the departure of Jim Ffield. While EMI insists that the figure of £12.5 million was only arrived at after substantial negotiation, this is hardly reason for praise, merely for alarm that it could have been in a situation where dispensing with the services of an executive might have brought a bill closer to £30 million.

Now Ffield, once seen as the man who brought magic to EMI, is now seen as a liability. The remarkable performance in the US is now to be attributed to Ken Berry, who, goes the current party line, sorted out the mess in the US which, apparently, Ffield was paid huge sums to create.

The scenario is puzzling for onlookers and does not reflect brilliantly on the board. But as Sir Colin could be heard sighing yesterday, EMI did succeed in producing growth last year that was heading towards double that of the world music industry. The Far East crisis took its toll, but will continue to do so, but the effect of strong sterling is easing. The message was more muted guitars than full-blooded orchestras. Upbeat New Age, perhaps.

## Dead banks walking

The speculative contagion that has spread from Asia to other emerging markets, most dramatically this week to Russia, is invariably blamed on the herd instinct of 20-something green screen traders in New York and London. Not so, asserts Peter Garber, a Professor at Brown University

and currently on the payroll of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

At a London School of Economics conference yesterday, he placed the blame for the deadly ripples from Asia squarely on the risky lending practices of what he calls Dead Banks Walking. Japanese banks had been technically insolvent for years but, desperate for income that might nurse them back to health, they were the biggest lenders of all to South-East Asia. Korean banks, many of which were bankrupt in 1996, tried to trade their way out of extinction by ever more reckless lending.

The spread of disease from Asia to the likes of Russia and Brazil has invariably been put down to the irrationality of hedge funds or emerging markets desks that do not have the wit to distinguish between different economies. The real story is even more alarming.

Korean banks were heavy lenders to both countries as well as Indonesia. But these were not

all ordinary loans. The zombie banks of Seoul were selling credit derivatives that allowed the more risk-addicted international investor to bet on the risk of the Russian and Brazilian economies, earning fat fees and totally disregarding the risk to their own balance sheets.

Korean banks were not alone. Brazilian banks, who began a love affair with risk during the days of hyperinflation, leapt heavily to Russia and took huge leveraged positions in Brady bonds. When Asian currencies started to implode, a vicious chain reaction was set off. Korean banks faced with margin calls pulled the plug on loans to Brazil and Russia. Brazilian banks called in loans to Russia, faced with pressure from its Korean creditors and a 20 per cent plunge in their Brady bonds. No wonder Russia was destabilised: Brazilian and Korean banks are estimated to account for one third of its internal debt.

Those who argue that free market capitalism is nothing more than a global gambling house have plenty of ammunition here and the zombie banks are not the full story. Banks in America and Europe as well as Asia have all been at the casino tables: they share an estimated \$25 billion exposure in derivatives to Indonesia alone.

## It's Hall in the game at Newcastle

Shortly before Newcastle United floated on the stock market, there was a kerfuffle about the resignation of the team manager, Kevin Keegan. He was not prepared to commit to a long-term contract, and the brokers to the issue, NatWest Markets, felt this uncertainty would have to be highlighted in the prospectus. So the board decided that if he was to go, he should go before the float. Why did they worry? After all, two thirds of the board have since resigned within 16 months of the company going public. Having already lost the joint chief executive, finance director and two non-executives (pursued by tabloid journalists), yesterday

saw the departure of the chairman, Sir Terence Harrison, and the non-executive director, John Mayo, who also happens to be finance director of GEC. The only independent non-executive left is Denis Cassidy, who is rapidly running out of directorships. The constant through all of this has been the 57 per cent stake owned by Cameron Hall developments — the family company of Sir John Hall.

The latest resignations come four days before Sir John is due to step down as chairman of the football club subsidiary, a post which is not on the main board. The company says that it is looking for a new independent chairman and non-executive. But with Sir John determined to stay on, despite opposition from Sir Terence, how can Newcastle fill either of these posts when it is clear that Sir John, not the board, controls the company?

## Checking the bill

Powerscreen's hopeless underestimate of the scale of its financial disaster leaves little reason for credibility in its belief that £4 million will cover the cost of the team of accountants, lawyers and public relations consultants now trying to sort out the mess. The SFO is digging around the case, but far from raising hopes of retribution, this is a reminder that it has still to nail culprits over the remarkably similar fiasco at Wickes.

## Airtours slips on winter losses

BY CARL MORTIMER  
AIRTOURS, the travel company, fell deeper into the red in the half year to March 31, a fact which raised questions about the firm's ability to eliminate the winter loss that typically plagues the travel industry.

Airtours invested heavily in Scandinavia and Canada in the hope that winter sun holidays would balance the seasonal bias in the UK to summer holidays. However, the Scandinavian business suffered from overcapacity and higher costs which added some £12 million to the first-half deficit.

Shares in the package tour and cruise operator slumped from 52p to 48p yesterday following announcement of the increased losses. The pre-tax loss for the six months rose from £12.7 million to £23.2 million.

David Crossland, Airtours's chairman, insisted that the rest of the business was going forward. He said the exit of a Scandinavian tour operator last year caused a rush by other operators to grab market share. "We all anticipated that we would get more business than was actually there."

The company said that UK bookings for this summer are 8 per cent ahead of last year while Costa Cruises, the joint venture with the American firm, Carnival, is expecting higher margins from improved occupancy. It continues to invest in newly acquired Polish and Finnish operations.

Airtours is paying an interim dividend of 1.5p per share, up 13 per cent on last year.

Tempus, page 30



Steve Marshall said Thorn had ticked its way through a City wish-list in the hope of reviving its share price

# Thorn poised to sell all its overseas divisions

By FRASER NELSON

THORN, the international rental chain currently in takeover talks, is to sell all its 1,630 overseas stores to become a British company dominated by Radio Rentals.

The decision to sell is the

upshot of a six-month strategic review, and will reduce Thorn to a third of its current size. The City gave a cool reception to the plans yesterday, and the shares nudged up 5p to 204p. Analysts suggested that Thorn's takeover talks have slowed, and may soon be called off altogether.

Mr Marshall said the company had effectively ticked its way through a City wish-list in the hope of reviving its share price. He said: "What the market needed was a short to medium-term solution. We have provided one."

He said the company had a shortlist of potential bidders for Rent-a-Center and pointed

out that Central Rentals, its main US rival, was sold recently for £64 million — equivalent to a year's turnover. On the same basis, Thorn's US division would fetch £560 million.

He said underlying growth for new installations at Radio Rentals was up 10 per cent in the UK in the past quarter. It has decided to stop stocking computers because keeping track of the stream of upgrades has become too expensive.

Its UK expansion is concentrated on Crazy George, which rents equipment through 80 stores at high rates to customers who cannot secure any

other means of credit. It blamed problems in Scotland on local newspapers which accused the Crazy George chains of exploiting the underemployment.

Overall, pre-tax profit fell to an expected £118 million (£171 million) for the year to March 31 on sales down from £1.33 billion to £1.25 billion — £446 million of which was generated in the UK.

After the share buyback last August, earnings dropped to 8.5p (9.7p) per share. A final dividend of 9.6p, due on October 2, holds the total at 13.3p.

Tempus, page 30

## Friends shrugs off pre-merger drop in profits

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

FRIENDS Ivory & Sime, the newly formed fund management group, yesterday shrugged off a sharp fall in pre-tax profits that occurred before the merger of Friends Provident and Ivory & Sime.

In the nine-and-a-half months to February 7, when the merger was completed, the two groups made £3.38 million in pre-tax profits compared with £6.8 million in the full financial year of 1996-97. This was on turnover on continuing operations reduced from £20.46 million to £15.63 million. Earnings per share were 5.43p compared with 14.4p.

Since announcing the merger in November funds under management have grown by £2.6 billion to £24.6 billion. However, the results showed the new group had also taken

a £1.5 million loss from the diminution in value of goodwill on Ivory & Sime's baronsmead. This had previously been written off to reserves but had to be adjusted after further fund losses in the run up to the merger.

Sir David Kinloch, chairman, said: "It is still early days since the merger but we are making good progress and I expect this to continue. Although the high level of the markets in the US and the UK gives some cause for concern, I believe we can look to the future with considerable confidence."

As previously stated, the company is not paying a final dividend. It is changing its year end to December 31 in line with Friends Provident life office.

## First quarter sales rise at Kingfisher

SIR Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive of Kingfisher, told shareholders yesterday that the first quarter had seen sales increases in all its divisions (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The group's like-for-like sales were up 5.9 per cent, with total sales up 8.5 per cent.

B&Q, the DIY market leader, increased like-for-like sales by 5.7 per cent. The wet weather over Easter hit gardening product sales but other product areas were strong.

In electricals, Darty, the French electrical retailer, grew same store sales 9.6 per cent in local currency. Same store sales at Comet, its British cousin, were only 1.6 per cent ahead.

Superdrug's same store sales were 5.1 per cent ahead while Woolworths was 5.5 per cent up.



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

## The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh Appointment of Chairman and Two Trustees

The Secretary of State for Scotland invites applications for the position of Chairman and for two members of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE).

The RBGE is the national Botanic Garden of Scotland and is of international importance not only for its botanic collections and displays but also for its scientific work in botanical research, conservation and education. Its mission is: To explore and to explain the plant kingdom - past, present and future - and its importance to humanity. Its prime task is to pursue whole plant science, notably through research of the highest quality on the origins, diversity and relationships of plants, their significance in the environment, and their conservation.

The RBGE is an executive Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) funded mainly by grant-in-aid from The Scottish Office. It operates under a Board of Trustees established under the National Heritage (Scotland) Act 1985. The RBGE employs approximately 200 staff and its income in 1996-97 was around £6 million.

The Chairman must be able to demonstrate leadership qualities and have a proven record of management at a senior level. He or she should have wide experience of public administration or business management ideally with a scientific, horticultural or conservation background.

The two Trustees should have senior research/academic experience of relevance to the RBGE's mission: expertise in plant science, horticulture, conservation biology or the environment would be particularly welcome.

The Board of Trustees meets five times per year. In addition, various sub-committees of the Board meet as required. The time input is estimated at 1-2 days per month for the Chairman and 7 days per annum for Trustees. It is envisaged that appointments will be for a 4-year period. The appointments of the Trustees will commence on 1 November 1998 and of the Chairman on 1 July 1999. The appointments are unpaid but expenses are reimbursed.

Further information and application forms are available from Mrs Maureen Urquhart, The Scottish Office Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries Department, Room 432, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh EH14 1TY. Tel: 0131-244 6053. Completed applications should be returned to this address by 19 June 1998. Applicants should indicate for which position(s) they wish to be considered. All short-listed candidates will be interviewed.

The Government is committed to the principle of equal opportunities in public appointments and to selection on merit with openness and transparency of process. Political activity will not be a criterion.

## Full year losses cut by 20% at Energis

By CHRIS AVREY

ENERGIS, the telecoms division of the National Grid which floated on the Stock Exchange last year, yesterday said it had reduced pre-tax losses by 20 per cent from £77.5 million to £62 million for the year ended March 31.

The company said that the business telecoms market, of which it has a 2 per cent share, was forecast to rise in value from its present £8 billion to £15 billion in 2005. Analysts expect the group to make its first profit next year.

The company, which recently formed MetroHolding, a joint venture company with Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom, said turnover was up 67 per cent from £97 million to £168 million, while losses per share fell from 31p to 28p. No dividend will be paid.

Mike Grabiner, chief executive, said Energis would be first in Europe with a virtual private data network — a way of outsourcing technology for internal computer networks.

Shares yesterday fell 3 1/2p to 77.5p, having risen from 254p in January.

## Market debut to value New Look at £330m

By FRASER NELSON

NEW LOOK, the women's clothing chain founded by Tom Singh, has confirmed that it will be capitalised at about £330 million when it joins the stock market next month.

In its second attempt at flotation, the company intends to raise £82 million to fund nationwide expansion. Mr Singh himself will retain a 34 per cent stake — worth about £110 million after flotation. He sold off shares worth £170 million four years ago.

The shares will be placed at a range between 150p and 175p, which would deliver a market value between £310 million and £350 million.

City analysts expect the final pricing, due on June 12, to come in at the higher end of this range.

Employees in all New Look's 410 stores are being given the chance to buy a total of £3.6 million worth of shares at the offer price, which would place 1.1 per cent of the company in their hands. Dealing is due to begin on June 19.

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## Legal retribution is bad economics



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Emperor Akhito's state visit has been overshadowed, in our own media, by the visual protests of British people who suffered as prisoners of Japanese troops during the 1941-45 war. Those of us who have lived a relatively soft life in post-war generations, whether in the UK or Japan, have no right to comment on their campaign against cruel oppressors. Most of the business world has been dismayed.

State visits should confirm or improve relations. The last thing business wanted, given Japan's prime role as inward investor in manufacturing and the off-putting strength of sterling against the future euro, was for the agenda to be set by an emotional conflict.

Why has this long-standing complaint so belatedly assumed public prominence? It could have dominated Anglo-Japanese relations for the past 53 years, but has not. It could have dominated the earlier visit of the late Hirohito, whose wartime role was decidedly ambiguous. But it did not.

The unforgiving veterans had

meanwhile acquired a campaigning radical solicitor, the Yorkshireman Martyn Day, whose own uncle is one of the victims. Mr Day is a great friend of the media. He brings us disturbing fears about the activities of big companies backed by heartrending individual stories of suffering and the fear that it could happen to us. His name will bring groans to the higher echelons of business. He has a history.

A decade ago, Councillor Day of Lewisham, South London, representative of local authority pension funds, became the scourge of a wide gamut of British multinationals such as ICI, GEC, Shell, BTR, Unilever and BAT as the moving force behind London local authorities' joint action against apartheid committee. Other shareholders groaned as he harangued one board after another over their employment policies in South Africa and urged them all to quit the country. But it was a healthy exercise in our dodgy shareholder democracy, which paved the way for other pressure groups. It scarcely mattered if he was right or wrong. Boards of big companies were forced to recognise that they were players on a testing international stage.

This exercise, along with his successful practice in compensation for industrial injuries and pollution, sadly seems to have convinced Mr Day that big business is the great Satan. Since then, he has made himself the leading lawyer acting for multiple parties against any organisation with money to pay. He has led several scare prosecutions of recent times, featuring big groups and actions against privatised utilities.

In several high-profile, long-running and expensive actions, Mr Day has vainly challenged

caused too much pollution. And he now leads the joint action against tobacco companies.

This process has thrown up several innovations. Mr Day's firm helped to doom the old legal aid system, from which it drew £8.3 million in a single year. He has come to dominate the British version of the American class action. In one of the Sellafield cases, Mr Day advertised in the local paper that: "if you are interested in making a claim against BNFL, then why not phone us". Similar tactics were used on a wider scale, for the tobacco case.

Such developments are disturbing for business. Any enterprise must be responsible for any damage its business causes and the threat of legal action is a great spur to care. On a grander scale, the legal system rightly helps the few who suffer grievously from approved activities or incompetence

British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL). He has sued ICI and the London Docklands Development Board over public nuisance. It was Mr Day who backed in the courts the complementary scares that underground electrical mains and overhead electrical wires caused cancer. He conducted a court campaign to close a major South London road artery because it

much the same category. Doubtless, Japan would be happy to settle its guilt for, say, £170 million. But the sums at stake, assuming Asians have equal rights, are a minimum of £100 billion and possibly much more. Ultimately, the veterans involved understandably want to punish Japan, to seek retribution, rather than settle.

These are rightly political matters. Clients hope their lawyers will always be loyal to them, rather than seeing a bigger picture. The rest of us do not have this narrow luxury. Even Mr Day might ponder the possible triumph that Akhito's visit might have been.

Suppose that British diplomatic effort had been mobilised to persuade Toyota to manufacture in Derby its Prius model, which halves petrol consumption and virtually eliminates the urban pollution that Mr Day was so anxious to combat in South London, and that this had been announced on the state visit. That would have been good for jobs, for the environment and for Anglo-Japanese relations.

Increasingly, such actions seek to punish the hated business organisation, rather than just to seek proper redress for a wrong. This is transparently true of the action against tobacco companies, even though most of us are either directly or indirectly investors. They are also couched in such terms that the defendant cannot possibly concede. If Mr Day had won all his actions against BNFL, the nuclear reprocessing industry would surely have had to close. Actions against Japan fall into

## Jakarta's first family holds on in the wake of the president

Suharto's dynasty still holds key influence, writes David Watts

Not for former President Suharto the midnight flight to a Riviera hideaway. He and his multi-millionaire children show no sign of leaving their Jakarta homes, in the wake of his resignation.

"First and foremost he is a nationalist," said an Indonesian businessman. "He will not take the Hawaiian option. When he goes out to play golf and go fishing he will do it in Indonesia."

The first family have certainly enriched themselves on a vast scale but they, by and large, have not emulated the late leader of the Philippines, Ferdinand Marcos, who sailed away millions which benefited no one but his family.

There are 2,500 Indonesian firms with first-family or crony links, 30-40 of which are listed companies. There are believed to be Swiss bank accounts and the Suharto family has strong links with Swiss banks and firms which include Nestlé and Ciba Geigy.

Opposition sources say they believe that the former president made two visits to Swiss banks last year, the first after a health check in Germany and the second after the Asia-Pacific Co-operation summit in Vancouver last November, when he stopped off in Zurich on the way to Saudi Arabia. There are also strong family links with Swiss construction and cement firms.

Despite the evidence, there are few demands in Indonesia for an audit. Even respected economic figures in the new cabinet have strong ties with Indonesian companies and the new leader President Jusuf Habibie is linked with more than 80.

His brother Effendi "Fanny" Habibie, the former ambassador to London, was until this week chairman of the Batam Development Author-



Observers fear calamity in Indonesia if the financial empire of the former president Suharto, left, and his relatives unravels

ity, a highly successful export development zone on an island off Singapore. He announced his resignation to remove the appearance of nepotism.

The Suharto family's wealth is generally reckoned to be 85 per cent in the country and locked up in infrastructure projects. A witch-hunt now could unravel the thread of a tapestry that is so vast it holds the economy together. From expressway tolls to hotels, transport and television, first family money is everywhere and often, in partnership with foreign money, in perfectly legitimate deals.

"If you pull it apart you will undo the whole fabric of society," said an Indonesian businessman. "And that is the last thing the economy needs at the moment. For the present this country really needs to forget about politics and concentrate on getting the economy back in good health. We are not talking about billions

in gold, we are talking about hundreds of productive companies and the creation of jobs and the skimming off of money from them.

"Within the context of the times these were legal deals. They may not have been morally right but if you break them up hundreds of thousands of people will lose their jobs."

"In this country we may have corruption but at least it works. The toll road gets built and the cars can run along it," said Arian Ardie, vice-president of PT Indokor Indonesia, a trading company. And, as the cars run the president's daughter, Tutut, creams off the tolls which total about 7,000 rupiah (70p) for every one heading into the city. Most visitors will also ride in a taxi owned by a first family or crony firm and when they are dropped off at a downtown hotel, it will be linked with a Suharto family member.

Tutut was once tipped to succeed her father as president and she has the requisite ambition. She is involved in about 100 companies, a trading company and has a stake in Bank Central Asia, which is the country's largest lender and has recently run into severe liquidity problems. Tutut also has a licence to supply aircraft parts to the state airline Garuda and its domestic spin-off Merpati.

Standing diagonally opposite the British Embassy on Jakarta's equivalent of Oxford Street - Jalan Thamrin - is the Grand Hyatt. Even your taxi-driver can tell you that it is part-owned by the former president's second son Hutomo "Tommy" Mandala Putra, aged 35.

The journal *Asiaweek* puts Tommy's wealth at \$600 million (£370 million). He has 60 per cent of the Humpuss

Group a conglomerate of some 70 firms that range from telecommunications to a monopoly on the supply of clothes for producing Indonesia's favourite cigarettes and an exclusive right to transport the products of the state oil company Pertamina.

The Government has this week announced that it will review the contracts on the ground that they unnecessarily add to the cost of importing crude into Indonesia.

Tommy's elder brother Bambang Trihatmodjo, aged 44, has interests in cars in an empire reckoned to be worth \$4.5 billion, at least before the calamitous dive in the value of the rupiah.

Like Tutut's expressway - built with borrowed dollars when the exchange rate was at 2,500 to the dollar before the start of the slide last July - Bambang and other family members will be nursing dollar loans which

they can no longer service with the current exchange rate, in the range of 10,000 to the dollar.

His quoted Bimantara empire has started, belatedly, to try and involve the employees more in the running of the company and, with its value standing at roughly a fifth of its pre-slide worth, he will need all the help he can get.

One of the principal Suharto family methods of dispensing patronage and keeping peace among his supporters and the army are a series of non-profit foundations which are funded by export levies and the like. In particular, they help fund the one organisation that is a truly national and unifying force - the army.

It has a multiracial, multi-confessional role and provides both social and military services to the nation - the so-called dual function. It is the only organisation which, in the absence of political parties, is to be found in all parts of the 14,000 island archipelago, where it provides the only source of food, earthquake and famine relief. To cut off such funding would have a devastating social effect across the country.

These foundations channel money for a whole variety of off-budget activities which include the purchase of equipment for the military such as advanced radio and communications equipment. The money is also used to keep the officer corps happy and in the barracks rather than taking part in overt political activities.

An important element, too, is the funding for members of the Strategic and Special Forces, with generals' salaries only £80 per month.

A key supplier of funds for this line of activity has been the first third-generation Suharto family member to go into business.

Ari Haryo Wibowo Sigit, aged 27, the former president's grandson, who is reported to be worth \$500 million, came up with the ultimate money-making scheme until his father put a stop to it - an exclusive deal to supply millions of Indonesian schoolchildren with shoes.

## Cookie tasting is the future of market research

The supermarket loyalty card is one of the simplest and most successful marketing devices ever devised. The cards let supermarket groups monitor who their customers are, when they shop and what they buy.

But businesses are now being offered much more powerful market research tools if they get their customers online. The ability of computers to track their users is being used by a growing number of electronic market research companies to compile frighteningly accurate profiles of those shopping or even fishing for information on the Internet.

One company, Andromedia, based in San Francisco, boasts that its software can even make commercial sense out of running websites that attract no revenues: in other words, most websites.

Visitors to most websites unknowingly receive a so-called "cookie". This is a computer file automatically downloaded onto your hard disk drive by a website.

It stores information about what you look at on the website, at what time, and for how long. Every time you go back, the website looks at the cookie, and remembers who you are and where you have been before.

Colgate, one of Andromedia's clients, uses software based on cookies to conduct market research on its toothpaste products and bases its advertising campaigns on what subjects its visitors have shown most interest in.

Another tactic used by Andromedia is to create several different home pages for a company. When Internet users click on an online advert they get sent to a particular home page. This lets companies know which adverts have worked.

The most sophisticated use of market research software is

when a company's website learns about you while you use it. For example, if you go to an online bookstore and spend all your time in the crime fiction department, the website will put up adverts for crime fiction. If you fail to make a purchase it may offer you a discount on books in your favourite genre.

Although most market research methods have a reputation for being based on a kind of voodoo science, the Internet takes away the need to make guesses and estimates. If companies are open about the way they get information about their potential customers online, the techniques used by businesses such as Andromedia should benefit everyone.



NEARLY a million UK homes will soon have access to video-on-demand and CD-quality audio delivered over the UK's cable network at up to 100 times the speed of telephone lines. The new service will be provided by a partnership between Home Networks, the Californian distributor of high-speed interactive services, and ComTel, the UK cable operator.

THE staggering investment in information technology made by European banks because of the millennium bug and EMU will not be sustainable after the year 2000, according to a report out this week from Datacom.

CHRIS AYRES

## Side show

SIR Colin Southgate, chairman of EMI, may have had a bumpy ride at his music business recently, what with the Seagarm bid failing to materialise and top music man Jim Fiffeld wandering off with £12.4 million in compensation. But Sir Colin is not being distracted by his other tricky little assignment - the chairmanship of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

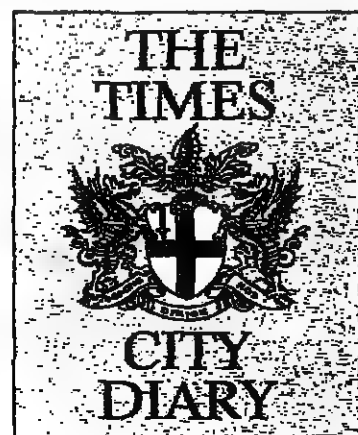
"I look at it as a £50 million subsidiary. The whole art of the thing is to get good people to run it," says Sir Colin, who like Gerry Robinson, the Granada chairman at the Arts

Council, is clearly a believer in applying the firm smack of business principles to the arts.

I NEVER knew this, and I don't suppose you did either, but the man who started the First World War belonged to a Bulgarian-inspired Macedonian terrorist organisation with an oddly familiar name. The shot in Sarajevo that echoed around the world was fired by Gavrilo Princip, a member of a group called IMRO.

### Bare figures

MONEYWORLD is a computerised, online provider of advice on personal finance available on the Worldwide Web. It is, I am sure, a blameless organisation created for the most worthy of motives and with a private life quite unblemished by scandal. In America, of course, the address would be moneyworld.com. But this site is already occupied by a less reputable organisation, and is used as an extremely graphic advertising billboard for the sort of material, "live from Amsterdam", that it provides to interested subscribers. The two Website addresses are easy to confuse, indeed, several potential Moneyworld subscribers have already done just that. The truth is that the site was originally used by a Seattle share tipping operation, until Moneyworld of the UK complained



and the American authorities shut it down. The then owner sold the site to a Tampa porn merchant. There must be a moral in there somewhere.

### Shopping trip

A COUPLE of vignettes from the seamy side of life. Lesley Worsfold is manager of Safeway's store in Holloway, North London, a "fairly rough area. King's Cross is just up the road." Her words, so don't blame me, I'm from South London anyway. The store has an unusual way of combating the local drug trade. "We have blue lights in the toilets to stop druggies from shooting up, so they can't find their veins." Charming. Also worried about drugs is EOS, the American computer firm, which has found a number of used syringes

abandoned in the car park, according to a memo leaked to *Computer Weekly* the trade magazine.

Although the company is insisting that its staff are not all shooting up in the car park, the memo concedes there are only three possibilities, none too appealing. Intruders are breaching security; contractors are bringing drugs in with them. "I won't dwell on the third alternative," says the company's health and safety officer.

THERE can be few stranger City documents than the Saatchi & Saatchi annual report. Once past the message from Kevin Roberts, the chief executive famed for once shooting a vending machine at a conference, pick your way through the arty photography and typography for the surrealism that is page 11. The picture of Wendy Smyth, finance director, is cut in half; the other half belongs to Bill Cochran, the network finance director based in New York. Some subliminal message in this odd hybrid? Wendy only works part-time.

### Brought to book

MORE news of Citizens' Financial Futures, the anodyne-sounding academic study that was derailed by terrible threats of legal action from the Knight Williams board on Tuesday. The board objected to a chapter on the company's collapse alleging that it, or parts of it, were defamatory, although no one has yet explained satisfactorily just what the problem is. Kate Trew, the book's editor, says the book is now

"temporarily on hold" while legal advice is taken. She is no clearer than I am on just what the directors are complaining about. She merely received a "sweeping statement" from Lovell White Durrant, the solicitors, that ordered her to withdraw the book from publication.

It does raise the question whether this is an ingenious extension of the existing libel laws to flatten legitimate comment on any given subject. We are objecting to something you plan to say. We will not say what, so we suggest you leave it all out to be on the safe side. It is perhaps not surprising that a small academic publisher should back down in the light of such threats, but it is disturbing anyway.

MARTIN WALLER



"I've got this great idea for a blues record"



Sir Colin Southgate says the Royal Opera House is like a subsidiary



## BUILDING SOCIETIES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Davies backs plan for Isa standard

HOWARD DAVIES, the chairman of the Finance Services Authority (FSA), the new super regulator, yesterday gave his support to a Government initiative to benchmark financial services products.

In a speech at the annual Building Societies Association Conference, Mr Davies said that plans for the so-called Catmarks would stimulate a lot of debate. He said that Catmarks would set the industry benchmarks on price and flexibility.

Last week, the Government unveiled plans to apply a standard to financial products, in particular the Individual Savings Accounts (Isas), the tax-free replacement for personal equity plans and tax-exempt special savings accounts. Under the benchmark proposals products will have to be accessible, cheap and offer good terms to savers.

The Government aim is to encourage the millions who do not save to put money away into the new Isa.

The plans have attracted a deluge of criticism from the industry, because most of the products in existence will not make the grade. They are too inflexible but, more importantly, are too expensive.

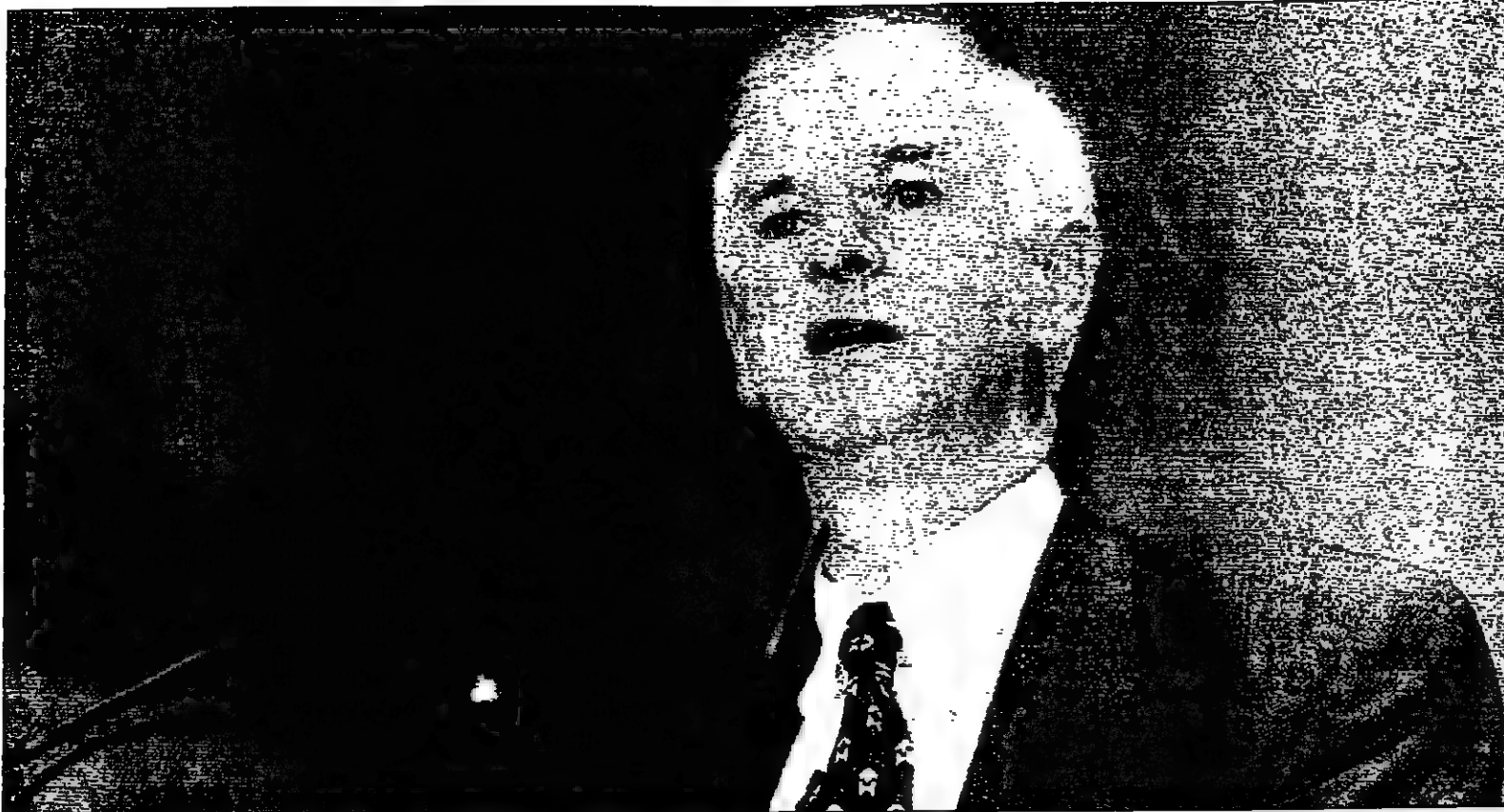
Mr Davies said that the FSA plans to release proposals in the next few weeks concerning the regulation of Isas in relation to the new Catmarks. He said that Catmarks amounted to indirect regulation of products.

Mr Davies added that there would be an inevitable drop in charges as a result, which he said was a laudable aim.

The FSA chairman also supported the building societies' movement in general. The societies will come under full regulation of the FSA by the millennium.

"We see no loss of the distinctive brand offered by building societies," Mr Davies said.

Reports by  
Caroline  
Merrell



Howard Davies, the FSA chairman, said Catmarks amount to indirect regulation of products and welcomed an inevitable drop in charges as a result

## MPC troubled by conflicting housing price inflation data

MERVYN KING, deputy governor of the Bank of England, admitted yesterday that measuring the rate of house price rises was one of the thorniest problems facing the Monetary Policy Committee when it came to setting interest rates.

The two-monthly indices used to measure house prices, one from the Nationwide Building Society and one from the Halifax, now show substantially different rates of house price inflation.

As Mr King pointed out yesterday, according to the most recently published data, house prices as measured by the Nationwide rose by 12 per cent in the year to April 1998, whereas according to the Halifax, they rose by only 5.6 per cent.

Speaking at the Building Societies Association's annual conference in Bournemouth, Mr King admitted that the bank had spent a lot of time and energy trying to find out why the estimates of house price inflation differed so radically.

The difference between the rates means that gross house-

hold wealth in the year to April 1998, rose by £80 billion more using the Nationwide figures in comparison with the Halifax figures.

The Bank of England claimed the difference between the two indices was because the figures were ad-

justed to take account of the varying characteristics of the houses bought and sold each month.

For instance, new houses may show more volatility in their prices than existing property. In an effort to try to resolve the problems caused

by the differing indices, the Bank of England now uses figures from the Land Registry in assessing house price movements. According to the latest of these figures, prices in the year to the end of 1997 rose by 9 per cent — this compares with figures of 6.9 per cent

from the Halifax and 12.9 per cent from the Nationwide.

The Nationwide yesterday defended its statistics by saying that it too based its index on the Land Registry prices. The society pointed out that the Halifax system gave more weight to the country than the Nationwide figures. Nationwide, however, added that its figure did not include those people who bought houses without using a mortgage.

Mr King said: "I would not want to claim in any way that we at the bank have found the true measure of house price inflation. Rather, the bank estimate was developed in the spirit of trying to give some guidance to the members of the MPC on the relative weights they should attach to the conflicting pictures painted by the Halifax and Nationwide indices."

He added: "The house price index constructed by the Department of Environment, Transport, and the Regions is helpful. But further work is required on this issue, which is of importance to us all."

ing fees for redeeming a standard mortgage or producing title deeds. These services can cost between £35 and £85.

Brian Davis, Nationwide's chief executive, said: "Every bank and building society has customers who are irritated by one service fee or another."

"As a building society we are not driven to maximise the profit we make out of our customers at every turn."

"From June 1 everyday requests like stopping a cheque will be part of the service we offer customers."

The society is also removing

the society should follow the Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester and convert into a bank.

From June 1, the society is scrapping all ATM charges. This gives Nationwide customers access to 15,000 cash machines free of charge. Some of the high street banks charge customers as much as 60p for using ATMs.

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From June 1, the society is scrapping all ATM charges. This gives Nationwide customers access to 15,000 cash machines free of charge. Some of the high street banks charge customers as much as 60p for using ATMs.

Nationwide will also no longer charge its customers for stopping cheques or sending duplicate statements.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY MAY 28 1998

## Legal & General makes £316m on Australian sale

By SUSAN EMMETT

LEGAL & GENERAL yesterday announced it will make a pre-tax profit of £316 million from the £333 million sale of its Australian subsidiary to Colonial, a local banking and insurance group.

Insurance analysts welcomed the news as a positive deal for the UK life insurer. They said Legal & General received a good price from Colonial, which is issuing 207.3 million shares via an underwritten placement. The sale is expected to enable the company to concentrate on its UK and European activities.

David Prosser, Legal & General group chief executive, said: "Legal & General Australia is a business with many strengths which has performed well in recent years. However, consolidation is taking place in the Australian marketplace and we believe that our shareholders are best served by exiting that market. We consider that a fair price has been achieved for the business."

Australian regulatory approval is expected by June 30 and sale completion is scheduled for July 1.

Legal & General said that after debt repayment, the cash will be used to further the company's growth strategy. City observers suggested that the deal, advised by Schroders, may encourage other UK insurers to leave the Australian market.

They said tight regulation and tough competition dominated by domestic players such as Australian Mutual Provident (AMP) and National Mutual, meant UK life insurers had consistently failed to achieve critical mass. One City analyst said: "The Australian market is not a good market to be in. This looks like an opportune time to exit it."

He noted that, although Australia has a compulsory pensions scheme, which boosts demand for life products, margins are "non-existent" due to the tough regulatory regime.

For the year to December 31, Legal & General Australia (LGA), a mid-sized company employing 600 people, had a premium income of £193 million. Net assets of LGA at the end of last year were £47 million.

It contributed an operating profit before tax of £15.9 million to the group's overall gross profit of £349.6 million last year.

## Watchdog leads fight against junk faxes

By GEORGE SIVELL

DAVID EDMONDS, the Director-General of Telecommunications, yesterday gave consumers more power to prevent companies sending them junk faxes.

The telecommunications services licence that forces most companies to remove from their marketing list the names of people who have asked not to be sent faxes is to be extended. It will now include companies that con-

tract faxing out to a third party.

Mr Edmonds also issued a final order to the British Fax Directory forcing the organisation to stop calling ranges of numbers automatically to identify and record a fax machine number.

Mr Edmonds said: "Automatic number searches have been a nuisance to many organisations. I want to put a stop to this."

## Tomb Raider helps Eidos to £16m profit

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in Eidos fell 97p to £11.65 after the information technology group, best known for its Tomb Raider game, reported a pre-tax profit of £16.5 million for the year to March 31, against a previous loss of £6.8 million.

Sales of the group, responsible for the games icon Lara Croft, rose from £75.5 million to £137.2 million. Earnings were 64.1p, against a loss of 59.5p. Brokers had expected profits of between £15 million

and £21 million, but the pre-tax figure was struck after charging an exceptional £1.9 million in the final quarter from the closure of Naked Records and the sale of Simis, the flight simulator unit.

In the fourth quarter pre-tax profits were £3.5 million, against a loss of £1.65 million. Ian Livingstone, chairman of Eidos, said: "Deathtrap Dungeon, the original Tomb Raider on Sony's platinum range and our new premier collec-

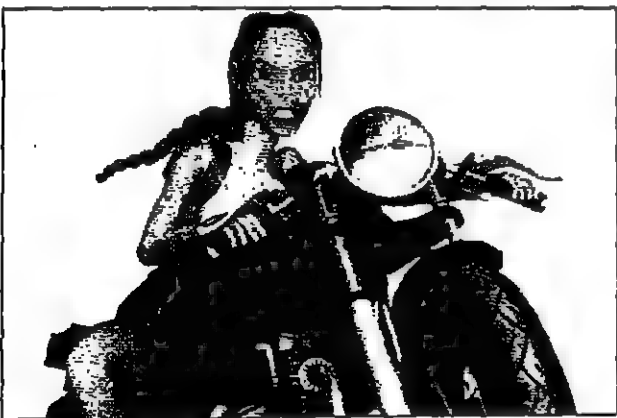
tion are proving a great success. There will be two new titles towards the end of the quarter, Dominion Storm and Final Fantasy VII.

"Looking ahead to the end of this financial year we believe Eidos has one of the most enviable product line-ups in the business." The Tomb Raider franchise "goes from strength to strength and, because of its high global profile, has the potential to generate increasingly high levels of revenue."

Charles Cornwall, the chief executive, said: "Given that this year also saw the company adopt the most prudent accounting policy in the industry in respect of software development, which meant an additional charge of £6.1 million for research and development, the turnaround from 1997 is a great deal more than pleasing."

Mr Livingstone said he hoped the appointment of new and independent non-executive directors would be made soon.

Once again there is no dividend.



Sales booster: Lara Croft now has a global profile

## Arjo signs £8.9m deal to acquire Copigraph

By OUR CITY STAFF

ARJO Wiggins Appliance, the paper and packaging group, has signed an agreement to buy Copigraph from Bolloré for £8.9 million (£90 million). Copigraph, which specialises in the coating of carbonless paper and produces 40,000 tonnes a year, recorded turnover of £436 million in 1997.

Philippe Beylier, AWA chief executive, said: "For the last few years we have been successfully implementing a re-

structuring plan to improve the manufacturing efficiency and competitiveness of our European carbonless business. Since the plan was launched in 1995, productivity has increased by 25 per cent and our business has returned to profit."

Arjo shares fell from 254p to 251p. The company also called in Hoare Govett as joint stockbroker to act alongside Cazenove.

## Small firms lag behind in 'green' policy drive

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

MANY of Britain's managers have turned "green" but UK companies are failing to follow suit and adopt environmentally friendly strategies, according to a report out today.

Only half the organisations surveyed have a written green policy and in smaller firms, this proportion drops to 32 per cent. The findings come in a report by the Institute of Management and Electrolux UK.

Larger companies with more than 1,000 employees are far more likely to have taken up the green message and 74 per cent of them say they have a written policy on the need to clean up waste and prevent pollution.

Time and money are the main reasons given by managers for companies not going green. Fear of an immediate rise in costs and a long delay before rewards come in are given as reasons for not adopting green ideas. Sixty per cent of managers cite lack of time to investigate the issues.

Managers acknowledge the business benefits of a green approach, but fail to see the link with financial savings, which are regarded as the least likely benefit.

Roger Young, Institute of Management director-general, said: "Money spent on good environmental practice is an investment not a cost and will reap bottom-line benefits."



Placing bonanza: Neil Taylor, left, Nicholas Warren-Smith, finance director, and Paul Lloyd-Rosch, chief executive

## Game valued at £148m for float

By CHRIS ARMES

GAME, the computer games retailer, will be valued at £148 million when it floats on the Stock Exchange next month - nearly £50 million more than originally expected.

Three brothers, led by Neil Taylor, the company's chairman, will share £33 million

when the company floats. They will sell around half their existing 48.6 per cent stake in the company.

Game's three existing institutional shareholders - Charterhouse, Foreign & Colonial and Lloyds Development Capital - will also sell around half their stakes in the float. The placing, which has

been sponsored by HSBC Investment Bank, will be priced at 200p per share, to raise £79 million. Dealings are set to begin on June 3.

Mr Taylor said: "We have been very pleased with the response of institutional shareholders to the company and its strategy and look forward to developing the

business with the benefit of the enhanced capital structure that is now in place."

Game, which opened its 66th store in Cheltenham last Saturday, will raise £8.5 million of new money through the placing to fund expansion plans. The company aims to expand its chain to 120 stores in the next three years.

## Swiss set to sever franc link with gold

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

THE Swiss Federal Government yesterday approved draft legislation that severs the Swiss franc's link with gold. The move will enable the Swiss National Bank to sell about 1,300 tonnes of gold, or half its reserves.

Switzerland is the last leading nation officially to link its currency with gold. The plan to revalue and gradually sell gold reserves requires parliamentary approval and amendment of the Swiss Constitution, endorsed by a referendum.

The Finance Ministry said the referendum would probably take place next year. According to the plan, the National Bank could revalue its 2,590 tonnes of gold reserves to about 60 per cent of the current market price.

The SNB's gold reserves are currently valued at a fixed price, set out by the Swiss constitution, of Sfr4,595 (£1,875) per kilo, roughly a third of the market price.

In a summary of the draft legislation, the Government said the world's abandonment of the outdated tie between gold and currency meant the link could safely be removed. "This makes possible a more flexible use of National Bank gold reserves," the summary stated.



## Move into another dimension - create your own CDs.

Lots of business tools will enhance your performance. The HP SureStore CD-Writer Plus doesn't just do that - it lifts you into another dimension.

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editing and copying audio just as quick and easy. The HP SureStore CD-Writer Plus is a new generation of re-writable drive. It means you can delete or replace files on CD just like a floppy - in fact it's the equivalent of up to 450 floppies! HP offers the complete solution with drive, software as well as a blank HP re-writable CD in the box.

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30p THE TIMES

Football free zone

**FOOTBALL FREE ZONE.**

Look out for this sign from June 1st for your World Cup alternative.

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



## Losses in thin trading

OTHER FINANCIAL

OTHER FINANCIAL											
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# THE TIMES

# ARTS

POP  
Lighthouse  
family in  
concert  
PAGE 38



## Licensed to kill some time

### TOMORROW NEVER DIES

MGMA, 12, 1997  
PIERCE BROSNAN returns as 007, although something has happened to dull the twinkle that made *GoldenEye* such fun. Some juvenile dialogue does not help. The script takes us all over the place in pursuit of an evil media mogul, enjoyably played by Jonathan Pryce before his performance, too, gets stuck in a rut. The action set-pieces have some vim, while Hong Kong action star Michelle Yeoh and TV's *Lois Lane*, Teri Hatcher, provide the female decoration. Available to rent.

### LOVE ON THE DOLE

4 Front, PG, 1941  
LAY-OFFS, breadline living, police clashes: in many ways Walter Greenwood's Depression-era novel is a story for our time. It took the Second World War to make the material palatable for our film censors and director John Baxter, always a champion of the humble classes, rose to the challenge, movingly portraying the plight of one struggling Lancashire family, Deborah Kerr, then a fresh newcomer, is the forthright

### NEW ON VIDEO

### THE PEACEMAKER

CIC, 15, 1997  
A BIG, blustery movie from the director of *Deep Impact*, Mimi Leder. Half of it wants to rub your noses in the chaos of Eastern Europe. Another part wants to go Hollywood stargazing and serve up a rollercoaster ride of thrills. George Clooney and Nicole Kidman need to track down nine nuclear warheads, stolen somewhere in Russia. Kidman goes in hot pursuit in dresses by Calvin Klein, while Clooney acts the daredevil. The thrills are real enough, although the tussle between glamour and grit leaves the movie looking a bit dishevelled. Available to rent.

### SPICE WORLD: THE MOVIE

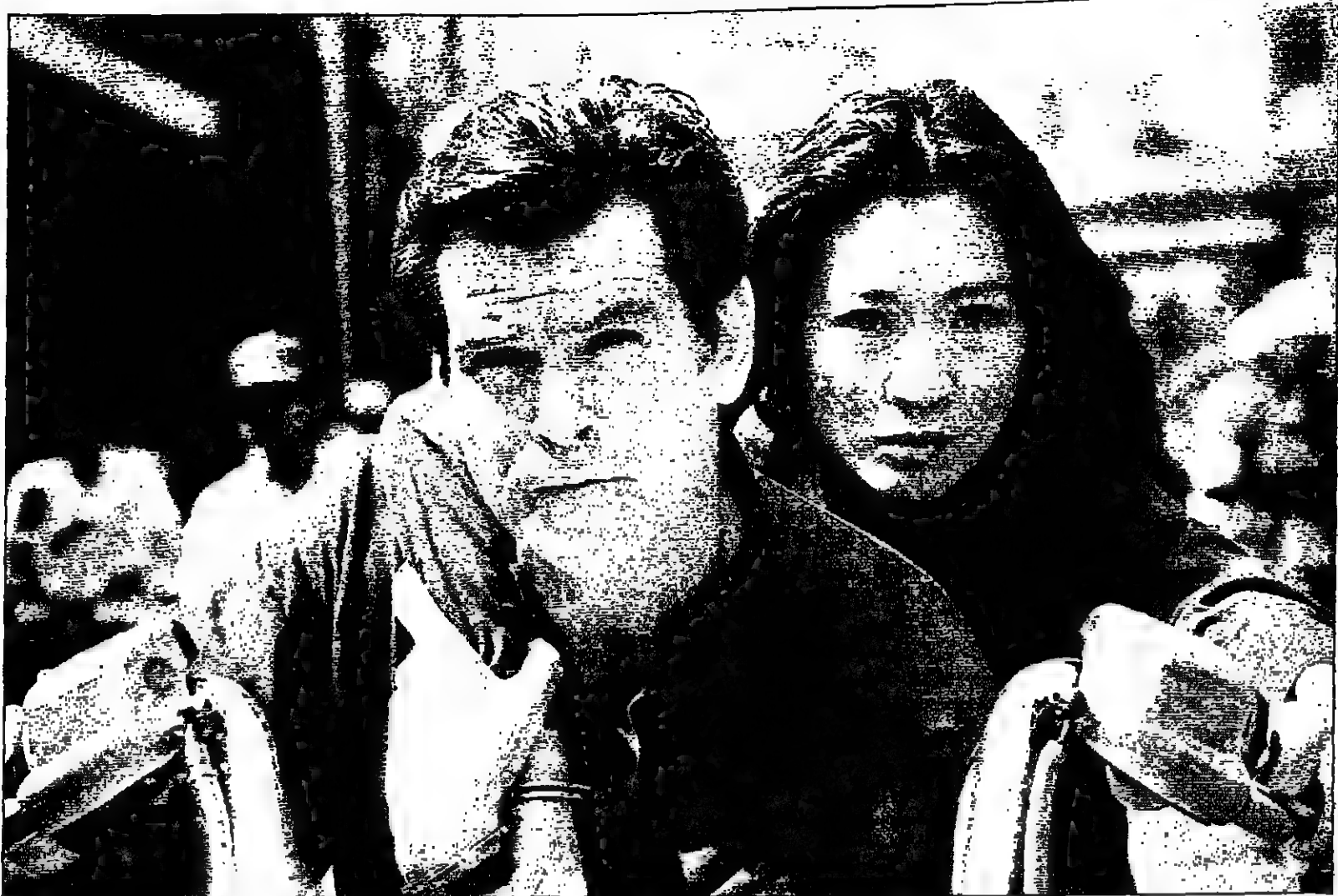
PolyGram, PG, 1997  
JOOLS HOLLAND, cast as the girls' musical director, puts it in a nutshell: "That was absolutely perfect," he purrs, "without actually being any

good." Who would expect perfection in a movie executed in a rush and designed purely as merchandise? But this hectic mess should still satisfy anyone eager to see the group do something other than sing. We follow them through a crazy week that includes tabloid newspaper attacks, a visit from aliens, the birth of their best friend's baby and a performance at the Albert Hall. Cameo appearances by everyone from Roger Moore to Meat Loaf add to the frenzy. Available to rent and buy.

### THE STRANGE LOVE OF MARCHIA IVERS

Second Sight, 15  
A CLASSIC film noir opening — all staircases, cruelty and rain — leads into a ripping yarn of guilt, fear and desire, with one of Barbara Stanwyck's best performances as the cold tycoon with a criminal past. Notable too for Miklos Rozsa's agonised score.

GEOFF BROWN



Pierce Brosnan, in his second and less successful crack at playing James Bond, with Michelle Yeoh in a scene from *Tomorrow Never Dies*

**THEATRE:** A visually arresting Shakespeare revival in the park; immigrant conflicts explored in Hammersmith

## Fun and sex in fairyland

NOBODY should go to Regent's Park in search of the sort of weird investigation of the subconscious that Robert Lepage gave us when he staged his mudbath *Dream* at the National a few years ago. When the theatre's ceiling is the sky, and voices must compete with passing planes, the subtle varieties of magic are hard to achieve. But if you are content with a lively, visually arresting revival that intermittently inflates your smiles into chorales, then Rebecca Kavanaugh's recast version of the production she brought to NW1 last year makes it worth braving the midgets, the damp, or whatever else an English summer throws at you.

The Edwardian-costumed performers drinking champagne or riding bikes on David Knappman's bosky, ruined-abbey set are a bit uneven. Could Michael Elwyn's sedate, white-suited Theseus ever have fought a ferocious battle with Debby

### A Midsummer Night's Dream

Open Air, NW1

Bishop's luxuriant, less-than-Amazonian Hippolyta? But the lovers — Rebecca Johnson, a notably feisty Hermia, and Timothy Watson a vain, smelly Demetrius with a commission in the Athenian Hussars — have more charisma than usual. And Daniel Flynn's swaggering Oberon, with his pirate-king looks, and Nicola Duffett's brassy Titania are far from the stealthy androgynes of theatrical tradition.

True, that raises questions. Should there be so much sexual feeling in fairyland? Should the place be populated by a band of mischievous gypsies among whose purple-and-claret, exotically clad number is a podgy, bespectacled lady who looks as if she expects to be the next Dame Edna? Well, I don't see why

not. Not having a visa to fairyland, I can hardly insist that it is full of human moths trilling extracts from Mendelssohn. And with asses and pretty boys playing their roles in the principals' personal politics, it is difficult to argue that Shakespeare's spirits lack sense or, for that matter, sensuality.

The ass himself is played by Ian Talbot less as a mindless braggart than as a sweet monomaniac who naively believes that great acting consists of mimicking windmills or railway signals with your hands while doing Mario Lanza imitations with your voice. The Pyramus and Thisbe scene, including (as it does) this Bottom's corpse rolling across stage like a barrel in order to retrieve the sword that Adam Sims's Flute has mislaid, actually manages to be very funny. And how often can one say that?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

HOW long must immigrants wait before they feel they belong to their new country? My own great-grandparents never felt accepted, and the First World War really screwed them up, but at least they were Caucasians, so no one could tell the genes my parents carried. With a different skin colour the tug of blood takes longer to give up, and this conflict between past family and present community is the issue at the heart of Stephen Clark's play, written after improvisation work with Chinese actors.

Some British-born Chinese call themselves bananas — yellow on the outside, white inside — a brilliant image that packs a bunch of difficult emotions. The bananas here are the sons of Hong Kong-born Mrs Chow (Sue-Lin), who needs their help to run the takeaway after the death of their father. Stephen (Paul Courtenay Hyu) has trained as an accountant, but for the younger pair the wok beckons. Allan, the youngest, wants nothing else but is not old enough to take command. Damien has the ambition and

## It's off to wok we go

Take Away  
Lyric Studio, WC

skill to be a stand-up poet/performer but if he chooses this path, the business must be sold.

Mu-Lan Theatre, the producing company, has just renewed its association with the Royal Court — an early production, *Porcelain*, transferred there — with the aim of encouraging young oriental writers. One, therefore, that Clark should be the chosen writer for the present production, but the deciding factor may have been his proven skills at making sense of diffuse material: he won an Olivier Award for rewriting the script of *Martin Guerre*. After the elegant beginning

of Stephen Knight's production, where the wings of the set swing open to disclose all the familiar paraphernalia of a Chinese takeaway, the play becomes bitty and too discursive, keen to give equal attention to all the characters and their pestiferous customers. But once we recognise the fundamental nature of Damien's conflict, the play takes a grip that it never loosens. The achievement here is Adrian Pang's: in two sequences of stand-up, his clipped bittersweet organises passion into art.

Elsewhere the play is drily comic, as when the family sends up the notion of the wily oriental with a display of courteous cheating. There is pain in the horrible assault on Paul Chan's Allan, and no simple solution of the various conflicts, although Damien's expression of them hints at one way. The last words are spoken by Sue-Lin, whose quiet dignity has been spiced with an impish smile, and the silence that follows turns a knife in the heart.

JEREMY KINGSTON

EN  
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# General consensus: it's dynamite

For more than 70 years, the title *The General* has referred to a wonderful film comedy by Buster Keaton: the one with the train and the Civil War. But now Keaton has a rival: a film as dynamic as any seen this year, or last, and a film that brings its director, John Boorman, roaring back into the top league after too many projects too strange or footling to make any decent impression (remember *Where the Heart Is* or *Beyond Rangoon*?). At Cannes on Sunday night, Boorman was awarded the Best Director prize. It could hardly be otherwise. For how could Martin Scorsese, the jury chairman, fail to respond to the film's sweep and gusto, the scenes of gang warfare, and the beady eye thrown on the complex character of Martin Cahill, the roistering criminal shot dead by the IRA in Dublin on August 18, 1994? As a film connoisseur, he must also have relished Boorman's daring use of black-and-white photography, which lends a touch of myth and enchantment to Dublin's dingy, cobble streets.

Not that this is a fairytale. One of the most disconcerting elements in *The General* is the way audiences' feelings about Cahill are pulled this way and that. For much of the time, we are encouraged to enjoy the man's ingenuity and buffoonery, and his delight in kicking authority in the pants — the police, the Church, political parties of any stripe. But suddenly, Brendan Gleeson, Cahill's terrific impersonator, stops being a cheeky Robin Hood in an anorak, executing audacious robberies or trying to hide his face behind a bunch of played fingers. He becomes paranoid and a thug. Suspecting a gang member of being a traitor, he nails his hand to a snooker table, and we writhe as the victim writhes. It is only a matter of time, we know, before someone behaves as brutally to Cahill as he does to others.

Boorman's energetic direction propels the film forward along with Cahill, from childhood in the Hollyfield slums to a house in the middle-class suburbs with a wife, mistress, and motley children. Then comes the robbery too far: the theft of paintings from Sir Alfred Bell's home in Co Wicklow. Valuable artworks are tossed around in fields, but behind the laughs you can hear the bell tolling. While Cahill proves adept at dodging

**NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown**  
salutes the film of the life of  
Martin Cahill, rebel and thief

**The General**  
Warner West End, 15,  
129 mins  
Cinematic dynamite  
from John Boorman

**Afterglow**  
Odeon Haymarket, 15,  
114 mins  
Julie Christie casts  
a spell

**Washington Square**  
Curzon Mayfair, PG,  
116 mins  
Henry James with lots of  
pretty pictures

**Dark City**  
Plaza, 15, 100 mins  
Claustrophobic and  
convoluted fantasy

**The James Gang**  
Warner West End, 15,  
99 mins  
Mood-hopping British  
crime caper

wives who need his aid; and in the elegance and wit of Rudolph's script and direction as his characters — a quartet of wives, husbands, and potential lovers — variously search for happiness.

True, not everything in the garden is rosy. Set and shot in Montreal, and produced by Robert Altman, Rudolph's first film since *Mrs Parker and the Vicious Circle* was obviously made for a modest sum, and the arabesques of Rudolph's camera cry out for far more lavish sets than the bare hotel rooms and apartments we are actually offered. And there is no denying that Rudolph's brand of whimsy is an acquired taste: you need to feel happy drifting away from surface reality, into a special universe of the director's making. Yet time and again *Afterglow* vaults over its quirks and limitations, and knocks us flat with Rudolph's understanding of love, pain, and the whole messy business of human relations. The marriage of Christie and Nolte is glued together by bad memories, familiarity, and extramarital excursions. Nolte meets Lara Flynn Boyle, frustrated wife of a corporate climber with no time for her body. Christie, separately, meets Boyle's husband, Johnny Lee Miller (Sick Boy in *Trainspotting*). At first Rudolph treats the material lightly, but more and more anguish filters through; for all the artifice of Rudolph's manner, these characters suffer real hurts and bruises.

the increased surveillance ordered by Jon Voight's inspector (a well-judged performance, this), his gang starts to splinter. The end is nigh. Iconoclasts have always been up Boorman's street — he is one himself — and with Martin Cahill he finds an ideal vehicle for his thoughts about the lure and price of anarchy. *The General* also allows him to express his feelings for the Irish character: he has lived in Co Wicklow for many years. Indeed, in its boccaceering, apolitical way, the film tells us more about the island's rebel streak than any number of anguished political dramas about the Troubles. Welcome to Boorman's *The General*: a sick of celluloid dynamite.

"I haven't seen this splendour since *Bambi*," Julie Christie purrs in *Afterglow* as Jonny Lee Miller's car whisks her away to a Quebec chateau for a semi-romantic weekend. There is splendour indeed in Alan Rudolph's film, not least in Christie's Oscar-nominated performance as a former B-movie actress trapped in a haze of memories and regrets, as moving and deeply textured as any in her entire career. There is splendour in Nick Nolte, cast as Christie's husband, a handyman who enjoys servicing the lonely house-

the present director, seems swamped by the weight of words and props, and apart from the odd little frisson, we simply gawp or yawn. Jennifer Jason Leigh, full of her usual tricks, is the heroine, Catherine. Sturdier performances come from the imported Brits, always essential in such fare: Albert Finney as the repressive Dr Sloper, Ben Chaplin as Catherine's wastrel suitor, and Maggie Smith, wittering away as Aunt Lavinia. But for all their talent they are acting in a vacuum.

Visually, *Dark City* could not be more different. This is one of those maddening fantasies where sunlight is unknown, and characters scurry through ominous alleys and towering buildings. Characters such as Rufus Sewell's hero John, who comes to in a hotel room with a corpse alongside and a fine case of amnesia. His head gets no clearer when Kiefer Sutherland's Dr Schreber, a limping madman, talks about aliens living in animated corpses, and memory manipulation. Sometimes in this heap of echoes from other films you can spot an interesting idea, but fashion dictates that Alex Proyas, director of that other nocturnal nightmare *The Crow*, hurries forward with the special effects.

*The James Gang* at least gets out and about as its hard-bitten family of six embark on a crime spree across Britain. Mike Barker, the director, and Stuart Hepburn, the writer, are not bereft of bright ideas, but the script's hunches between wild comedy and gritty drama scupper their potential. The hard-working cast includes John Hannah, Helen McCrory and Jason Fenyng.



John Boorman won Best Director at Cannes for *The General*, starring Brendan Gleeson, left, and Adrian Dunbar

## 'Excellent stuff'

Every week young film fans discuss the latest releases...

**■ THE GENERAL**  
Laura Brook, 19: The use of black and white adds much to the telling of this true story. Excellent stuff.  
Dom Young, 19: This is not so much a film about the Troubles in Northern Ireland as a portrait of a latterday Robin Hood. Very enjoyable.  
Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 20: Every aspect — the dialogue, performances and filming — could not be improved.  
Emma Rolph, 19: Brendan

Gleeson and Maria Doyle-Kennedy are exceptional.

**■ AFTERGLOW**  
Laura: The comedy is wonderfully underplayed.  
Dom: This intelligent film is hugely enjoyable.  
Leslie: Julie Christie's Oscar nomination was too generous.  
Emma: Dry and very ironic. Lara Flynn Boyle has looks and talent in equal measure.

**■ WASHINGTON SQUARE**  
Laura: So awful it makes Merchant & Ivory look good.

## SNAP VERDICT

Terrible plot, clumsy script.  
Dom: Virtually every performance is hugely at fault.  
Leslie: Maggie Smith is embarrassing in this. She would do well to learn that less is more in screen acting.  
Emma: For any movie with Ben Chaplin I would gladly pay 20 times the admission price, however bad it is.

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# ARTS

## Staying close to home

### JAZZ

#### Clerical Medical Jazz Weekend Bath

Netherlands as a pianist, he explored the tonal and timbral possibilities of the harpsichord with understated skill and considerable invention. While Janssen looked to the baroque harpsichord repertoire for inspiration, French pianist **Sophia Domancic** looked to the impressionism of Ravel and Debussy. She has appeared at Bath before in a trio setting, but this was her first solo concert. Her main piece was one seamless 40-minute improvisation, which trundled along over a consistent underlying pulse and a colourwash of luminous chords. Soon her clear right-hand lines were offset by finger smashes and bass thumps without ever losing momentum. Down the road from the Guildhall, the three women who make up Les Diaboliques (Irene Schweitzer, Joelle Leandre and Maggie Nichols) managed to



John Surman brought an English note to a jazz festival with a continental flavour

create an intimate club atmosphere. In particular, Leandre's virtuoso bass playing set the stage for an hour's solo set by fellow bassist **Eberhard Weber**. Playing his specially constructed instrument and deftly handling a barrage of electronic effects, he built wash upon wash of sound to artificially create the sound of a string ensemble. British saxophonist **John Surman** went one better, in a new commission for the festival that set his solo reed instruments in a real-life string quintet.

ALYN SHIPTON

At a time when most big international jazz festivals tend to look to the USA for both the prevailing styles of music on offer and for their headline artists, the Clerical Medical Jazz Weekend at Bath remains firmly focused on Europe and the European musical heritage. Indeed, only one concert out of 20 events featured any American musicians, the **Rova Saxophone Quartet** from San Francisco, and even their programme was built around a work by English bassist **Barry Guy**.

Playing entirely acoustically, the Rova Quartet exploited the reverberant sound of the Guildhall, three sopranos and one soprano sax beating against one another in Fred Frith's *Hopscotch*. Although the creaking floor, booming stairwell and comings and goings of the festival audience are distractions that occasionally threaten to get out of hand, the Guildhall is an otherwise ideal setting for solo or small group concerts.

**Harpichordist Guss Janssen** has his solo debut there, beginning with some formal 18th-century keyboard figures that were subsequently deconstructed with enormous skill and humour. More often heard in his native

THE METEORIC success of Paul Tucker and Tunde Baiyewu, the Newcastle-based duo who make up Lighthouse Family, has probably been more remarkable than their tastefully upholstered mainstream pop. Just three years after releasing their debut single, the band have sold 2.5 million albums and are filling vast arenas usually reserved for much more established acts.

The duo's formula is deceptively simple, consisting of featherlight soul-pop arrangements that aspire to the timeless classicism of vintage Motown but are actually strongly rooted in the Eighties redefinition of soul as the sort of pastel-shaded easy listening of Sade or Simply Red. In fairness, though, Lighthouse Family bring an endearing vulnerability and elegance to the format that defies such potentially damning ancestry.

In Bournemouth's International Centre on Tuesday night, keyboard-playing

### Medicine man

Dr John Barbican

THE over-amplified mix, unfortunately, did him few favours. His vocals can be gravely enough at the best of times, but evening it was hard to decipher all that much. Best just to go with the Crescent City beat. Rebenack's Lower 911 Band is a potent beast even if it does not extend beyond bass, drums, guitar and sax. A full horn section would have helped to lighten the murky sound, although the dark textures suited the ominous mood of *John Gris* from the new album. As it is to remind us how long he has been around he took a detour through *Love Poison Number Nine*. At the end came a wonderful moment of calm as he unfurled a version of his old hit *Such A Night* embellished with all the keyboard touches of that great uptown blues balladeer, Charles Brown.

CLIVE DAVIS

### Tunes before bedtime

POP

Lighthouse Family

songwriter Tucker and singer Baiyewu were augmented by five musicians and three backing vocalists. They delivered a polished, professional and somewhat passionless set that nevertheless went down a storm. The duo's secret weapon against the Muzak-tinged drift of their arrangements is Baiyewu, a Londoner of Nigerian lineage, whose magnificent voice recalls the fuzzy warmth and effortlessly rich timbre of soul legend Al Green. This it fell to the numbers that relied most on Baiyewu's gently tumbling vocals to give this ultra-slick set a human dimension: melancholy ballads such as *Postcard from Heaven*, the gloriously anthemic *High* and a gospel-fired version of their forthcoming single *Lost*

STEPHEN DALTON

### LONDON

AS YOU LIKE IT? Anastasia Hile plays Rosalind in the opening production of the New Education Theatre's 1998 season, *Lucy Bailey* (1998).

**SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE**, New Globe Walk, Bankside, SE1 (0171-401 5818). Opens today, 2pm. In repertoire.

**ATYAT'S CONFERENCE OF THE BIRDS** Viewed Theatre Company stages the 800-year-old Sufi allegorical poem where the birds search for a king can be seen as humanity's own search for fulfilment.

**THE TABERNACLE**, Pinner Square, W11 (0171-555 7800). Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Tue-Sat, 8pm; Mon-Sat, 7pm. In repertoire.

**COPENHAGEN** Michael Bakermore directs Michael Frayn's new play, imagining the reasons behind the curious visit paid by the German physicist Heisenberg to Niels Bohr in 1941. With Matthew Marsh, David Burke and Sara Kesteven.

**NATIONAL THEATRE**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000). Opens tonight, 7pm. In repertoire.

**BEVERLY SACRAMENTS** A cast of 150 performers featuring an orchestra, with angels and demons, is assembled for the staging of Nicolas Boileau's dramatic oratorio. Developed from Neil Bartlett's last inspired by a series of paintings by Nicolas Poussin, the work looks at the role of ceremony in contemporary life. With choreography by Leah Hausman.

**SOUTHEAST CENTRAL**, Montague Close SE1. Box Office (0171-741 2511). Tonight-Sat, 7.45pm.

**YERKHA** PHIL HARMONICH A fully arranged concert by the award-winning Australian orchestra under the baton of Sefi Ozawa, featuring a programme of Beethoven's First Symphony coupled with Stravinsky's *The Fire of Spring*.

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Disney's film turned into a hit Broadway musical. Julie-Nash Brighton and Asquith Harvey as the leads, with support from the likes of Denis, Givins and Norman Rosenberg.

**DISNEYLAND**, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-416 0000). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Sat, 2.30pm.

**CLARENCE** Sarah Kane's latest musical, death, desire and some joyful redemption.

**JOHN COURT** Denny Laine (Duke of York), St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-555 5000). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Sat, 2.30pm.

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### TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marti Margie

**FESTIVAL HALL**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-550 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm.

**ELSEWHERE**

**BATH** The International Music Festival receives a visit by the Gaiety Concerts under Paul MacCreesh, for an atmospheric performance of Bach's awe-inspiring masterpiece the *St John Passion*. Soloists include the soprano Susan Hemmings-Jones and the bass Peter Harvey.

**WELLS CATHEDRAL** Box Office (01225 453362). Tonight, 7.30pm.

**CANTERBURY** Northern Ballet Theatre returns to town with one of the most popular works in its repertoire: Christopher Gable's sensual and daring 1994 production of *Swan Lake* danced to Tchaikovsky's powerful score. With stunning designs by Liz Brotherton.

**SALISBURY** There is cause for rejoice both for opera buffs and dance enthusiasts tonight. At the City Hall, 7.30pm, the Festival welcomes the City of Birmingham Touring Opera in a performance of Javiera's enchanting *The Adventures of Moon Shap-Eye*. At the same time, at the Playhouse, the powerful athleticism and fluid lyricism of the acclaimed *Presenta Dance Company* can be seen in a programme featuring Mark Baldwin's new piece, *Temptations of Glory*, and works by Theo Norton Barnes and Dwight Rhoden. Reported FA, 7.30pm. Festival Box Office: 01222 323333.

**LONDON GALLERIES**

**Barbican** The World Look (0171-435 8891). British Museum: The First in Saint Brian, 1603-1689 (0171-323 8891). Design Museum: *Booth* - 100 years of exhibition (0171-737 6055). Museum of London: The Life and Times of N.M. Rothwell, 1777-1838 (0171-400 0077). National Gallery: *Henry Moore and the National Gallery* (0171-747 2865). National Portrait Gallery: *Portrait of the Great in England, 1688* (0181-312 8745). National Portrait Gallery: *Portrait of the Great in England, 1688* (0181-312 8745).

**THEATRE GUIDE**

**Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London**

■ House full, returns only  
■ Some seats available  
■ Seats at all prices

**Playhouse Theatre**, Coventry Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). 7.45pm. Tonight-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Sat, 3pm. In rep.

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**THE MERCHANT OF VENICE** Kathryn Pogson's *Porto* comes to the end of Mark Rylance's *Shakespeare* in Richard O'Brien's strongly cast production. With Lisa Blair, Jack Shepherd, Mark Rylance, and others. Tickets from £10.00. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. Mat. Sat, 3pm. In rep.

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**THE MERCHANT OF VENICE** Kathryn Pogson's *Porto* comes



THE TIMES THURSDAY MAY 28 1998

THEATRE

Jack Shepherd's double act

**NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Songs**  
from a convent, colourful Vivaldi  
and single-minded heroines

VOCAL

Hilary Finch

**LUCREZIA VIZZANA**  
Compendium musicali  
Musica Secreta

Linn CKD 071 \*\*\* £15.99

PIETY, passion and scandal in a Bolognese convent: that is how yesterday's London concert of the recording was marketed. But these 20 songs and motets written by a female contemporary of Monteverdi turn out to be a somewhat subtler affair in this enticing first complete recording.

The voices of Musica Secreta provide a little healthy competition for the Anonymous Four, with whom they share a mission to discover and disseminate the work of 16th and 17th-century women composers. Many of them, like Vizzana, wrote and published their music as a way of metaphorically leaping over the convent wall and finding their voice in contemporary musical circles. The findings continue to be revelatory.

Vizzana, who was packed off to a convent at the age of eight, frequently used her exceptional musical talent to celebrate the physical, sacramental presence of Christ in all its sensuous images and paradoxical concepts. The subtly variegated palette of Musica Secreta reveals her own spiritual secrets deliciously. Tessa Bonner creates a sense of chaste ecstasy in *Veni, dulcissime Domine*, and the high soprano of Deborah Roberts is a true morning star in *Ave Stella Matutina*. The grave mezzo and alto of Catherine King and Mary Nichols add their voices to John Toll's organ playing and the sweet chitarrone of David Miller.

CHORAL

Barry Millington

**VIVALDI**  
Juditha Triumphans  
Murray/Kiehr etc/King's Consort/King

Hyperion CDA67281/2

\*\*\* £27.99

QUITE why Vivaldi's only surviving oratorio, *Juditha Triumphans*, is not better known is a mystery. Based on the apocryphal story of the Jewish heroine Judith, whose seduction and be-

heading of the Assyrian Holofernes liberates her people from the yoke of their oppressors, the work offers lyricism in abundance and some truly extraordinary scoring. A soprano, chalmers depicts the cooing of a turtle dove, a viola d'amore the essential gentleness of Judith, and there are exotic touches from mandolins, theobos, recorders and a consort of viole d'inglese.

Robert King's direction revels in such novelties, and in the King's Consort he has a skilful team of players to realise the ravishing beauties of the score. The vocalists are in general fully equal to their task too: Maria Cristina Kiehr and Sarah Connolly make a particularly strong impression, and Ann Murray is satisfactory in the title role. Both the recording and Michael Talbot's notes are up to Hyperion's usual high standards.

RECITAL

John Higgins

**JANE EAGLEN**

Mozart and Strauss

Israel Philharmonic/Mehta

Sony SK 60042 \*\*\* £15.49

**SINGLE-MINDEDNESS** is the characteristic shared by the heroines of this recital split equally between Mozart and Strauss. Salome wants only the lips of Jokanaan, Arabella will go on waiting for Mr Right, Mozart's Anna desires only vengeance on her father's assassin.

Eaglen is consistently happier in Strauss than in Mozart. She may sound too maternally for the closing scene of *Salome* despite some ravishingly held notes. But she is very much at home with the gloom in Ariadne's opening aria, a role she has sung on stage. Arabella is a role that may be to come and Eaglen dismisses her suitors with aplomb. Full marks too for two emotional outbursts from lesser-known works, *Güntram* and *Die Aegyptische Helena*.

The Mozart is more variable and is not helped by the heavyweight conducting of Zubin Mehta, fine in Strauss but decidedly lumpy in *Don Giovanni*. The wounded reproach of *Non mi dir* is missed by both conductor and soprano, although matters improve considerably with Elettra's two arias from *Idomeneo*. Sound quality is a bit below Sony's best.

★ Worth hearing  
★★ Worth considering  
\*\*\* Worth buying

THEATRE:

Heather Neill

meets actor,

director

and writer

Jack Shepherd

Jack Shepherd fuelled up with a hearty lunch of soup and lamb with olives in the Globe café while talking about his part in the new season. Doing Antonio in *The Merchant of Venice* in that very public arena demands energy, it seems.

He was at the Globe two years ago to direct *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, the first production in the almost-completed theatre. "The Globe stage is not as difficult as the Olivier and not as public as doing the promenade version of the *Mysteries* at the National. I know about the amount of energy and clarity required here, though: a performance has to be public. There is no escape on that stage."

How does he deal with the infamous area between the pillars on the stage, known to actors and directors as "death row" because it is so difficult to make an impact from that position? "Don't stay there too long," comes the instant reply.

Shepherd is serious, smiling rarely, concentrating on the matter in hand. He is directing this season too, a newly conflated version of the two parts of Thomas Dekker's *The Honest Whore*. And in the midst of all this activity, another series of his Cornish detective series *Wycliffe* — the last — has just hit our television screens, this time with two episodes directed by Shepherd himself.

"It's very different in the theatre you're on your own, hammering it out with the actors; in television there's a team and if you are technically inexperienced you can learn as



Jack Shepherd at the Globe: how does he deal with the infamous area between the pillars known as death row? "Don't stay there too long."

you go." He is proud of the series now, believing it has developed in a way which is not acknowledged by the critics: "The books didn't adapt well at first, but we have worked our way out of a formula into something new and exciting. Each episode has a different thrust and style."

In any remaining spare moments he is writing a new play set in London in Falklands-era 1982, about the responsibility of artists during wartime. That, he says, is the most fun, getting his own work performed and directing it himself.

He trained as an artist

himself, but "by the end of four years I knew I was not suited to being a teacher, which is what most of my contemporaries were becoming". So he switched to the Central School of Speech and Drama and the Drama Centre in London, and he has rarely been out of work since he graduated in 1965, a fact he acknowledges with a broad, if fleeting, grin. This summer's acting challenge is tougher than most. He has the measure of the Globe's physical characteristics and of his part, but what about the audience? Last year the groundlings threw cabbages at the French in *Henry V* in a

show of more-or-less good-humoured patriotism; will there be reactions this season to what some see as the anti-Semitism in *The Merchant*? "I have Jewish friends who think the play thickens prejudice, but there is actually very little generalised anti-Semitism. Only Antonio thinks of Jews as all the same, but he is not fascistic. His is an honourable rejection of the practice of usury, which he thinks evil. There are some pretty brutal bits which it will feel unpleasant to do, but there are no parallels to the Holocaust."

*The Honest Whore* is quite a different kettle of Jacobean

fish. Unfamiliar to modern audiences and adapted for speed and clarity by Shepherd himself and the Globe's artistic director, Mark Rylance, who also acts in both plays, it is a mixture of moral tale, *commedia dell'arte* and low-life London comedy. Shepherd chose it himself: "Most of the Jacobean plays I read were rather formulaic. *The Honest Whore* has a more interesting story, one nobody knows, which is an advantage." Dekker's language is more straightforward than Shakespeare's: "Mark likens him to Dickens: there's the same enjoyment of low-life

characters and put-upon heroines."

He has known Rylance for some years, since the latter played William Blake in an early Shepherd television play in 1990. "We used to devise plays, but when we wanted to do one about William Blake and Tom Paine I thought it would be too difficult to improvise so I'd better write it." Now, he says, he has an addiction to creating things: "I'm not happy unless I'm making something up."

● *The Merchant of Venice* opens tomorrow night at the Globe (0171-401 9949). *The Honest Whore* opens on Aug 1

Finely tuned to theatrical song

CONCERTS

though Tracey Welborn sang *Maria* and the duets with Rebecca Caine. Welborn also excelled in the *Ballad of Eldorado* — yes, on balance, the good news far outweighed the rest.

RODNEY MILNES

Would anyone claim that the increasing virtuosity of orchestras this century is not a good thing? Cue the "authentic" New Queen's Hall Orchestra, which in its latest programme argues that the pursuit of technical perfection has been at the expense of musical spontaneity.

While there may be a grain of truth in that, happily most period bands do not lower their standards in search of authenticity: the best combine precision with flair, qualities both a little undersupplied in Tuesday's NQHO account of Mahler's Sixth Symphony. In-

Old times' sake

**New Queen's Hall**  
Orch/Morris  
Barbican

terpretations of the mighty Sixth need not be vulgar to leave the listener shaken and stirred, but this one under Wyn Morris, the seasoned Mahlerian and new principal conductor of the NQHO, failed to take emotional flight. Even the first movement's Alma theme lacked passion: indeed, the whole movement lumbered along, coming alive only in its closing bars. The wind ensemble was shaky in the Scherzo, and undistinguished solo playing in the

Andante meant that real rapture was achieved only at its end, again too late. The way in which the last "hammer blow of fate" landed slightly off target said it all about this underwhelming performance.

There is something about the NQHO's idealisation of a

lost orchestral world that suggests it is chasing the musical equivalent of warm beer and cricket, an impression only underlined by the playing of the national anthem at the start. The more subtle colours of its orchestral palette are a revelation, and it is good to hear how less-upholstered strings can alter the balance of the surging start or the disembodied sounds that introduce the finale. Yet for the period movement to have validity, the rediscovery of old sounds should be the key to new insights, not an end in itself.

JOHN ALLISON

EXTRA PERFORMANCE ADDED  
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lump-in-the-throat *Lonely Town*, one of the loveliest of 20th-century songs; he could be one answer to the current dearth of leading men in musicals, the next Billy Bigelow perhaps. Claron McFadden sang *Glitter* and *Be Gay* so well that she could have afforded to work less hard in putting it across, but she duly stopped the show. Then there was the inimitable Sally Burgess, another showstopper with the feisty *One Hundred Easy Ways to Lose a Man*, and one who should have substituted the verb "dance" in *I can cook too*, given her cavortings in *Wrong Note Rag*. Her ENO *Carmen* tomorrow might seem tame after this.

There were some less familiar extracts, too. Burgess and Daymond in the *Why Did I Have To Lie* from the opera *Traité*, ripe for revival, and two numbers from *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*.

The less good news? There was some decidedly peculiar amplification of the BBC Concert Orchestra: from where I was sitting the evening sounded like an extended bassoon concerto. And the great danger with Bernstein is his heart-on-sleeve sentiment: set a tempo a smidgeon too slow, which the fine conductor John Mauceri occasionally did, and all is lost. Hearing four soupy numbers from *West Side Story* was like being dunked in a barrel of molasses as well as giving a misleading impres-

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The top two British players, Greg Rusedski, above, and Tim Henman,

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CHANGING TIMES

EXTRA PERFORMANCE ADDED  
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ROYAL GALA EVENING ON MONDAY 8 JUNE

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## IMPRESSIONS

Old life of a muse

## BOOKS

LIFE'S A BEACH

De Botton on Connolly

## How to have the best of both worlds

In the beginning?

**Roger Scruton**  
watches sparks  
fly as faith and  
physics meet

John Polkinghorne is one of the most remarkable of modern theologians — the only ordained member of the Royal Society, and one of the tiny platoon of theologians who have made a substantial contribution to the advance of theoretical physics. Two important books, *The Quantum World and Science and Creation*, established him as a popular exponent of physical theory, while *Science and Christian Belief* is a serious and thought-provoking attempt to answer the scepters and the parishes. *Belief in God in an Age of Science* began life as a series of lectures, and aims once again to fortify the claims of faith against the tide of scientific scepticism. If it does not quite succeed in this, then it at least makes clear that the questions are broader and deeper than the village atheists would have us believe. Although Polkinghorne lacks the literary and imaginative skills of Richard Dawkins, he shows — what in truth requires little argument — that the theory of evolution is no more a threat to religion than is any other scientific truth.

It is no less of a threat either. Two questions therefore remain: whether there are grounds for the truth of religion; and whether the claims of religion can be reconciled with those of science. It is a law of logic that contradictory propositions cannot both be true. But it often seems as though religious propositions are contradicted by science. There are those, of Dostoevskian temperament, who say that when science and religion conflict, science must be rejected. Polkinghorne is not one of them. He recognises that "science" is only another name for the procedures whereby we discover the truth. The real questions therefore concern the place of God in nature, and the relation between God and the world.

Polkinghorne is wedded to the Anthropic Principle, which says (roughly) that the world must be such that we can be conscious of it — otherwise there would be no question, therefore no answer, therefore no science. That sounds like a tautology, and Polkinghorne



## BELIEF IN GOD IN AN AGE OF SCIENCE

By John Polkinghorne

Yale, £14.95

ISBN 0 300 07294 5

admits that it probably is. But it is a significant tautology, he thinks, since it reminds us how amazingly improbable it is that the world should be a knowable world, one that yields its secrets step by step to the advance of science, one which shapes itself before our eyes in the form of a unified theory. Surely, the very improbability of such a world testifies to the divine providence that brought it into being?

Polkinghorne fortifies that suggestion with references — both dazzling and fleeting — to all the frontiers of cosmology and microphysics, and the untrained reader will certainly be bewildered into thinking that science is on the side of theology, and that God alone can explain the existence of this world by making its existence probable.

The trouble is that the question to which science is being invoked as an answer is not a scientific question. Nor can the answer take the form of a statement of probability.

It was Kant who first saw this clearly. Science cannot tell us that the world harmonises with our cognitive powers, he argued, since this is something that science presupposes. Moreover, any explanation involves laws, and laws (including statements of probability) apply within the world and not to the world as a whole. A statement to the effect that it is more or less probable that the world as a whole should be law-abiding, knowable, unified, orderly, is meaningless. Like Polkinghorne, Kant regarded the harmony between the world and our cognitive powers as a source of wonder, but this harmony can be understood, he argued, only through aesthetic judgment, and never through scientific explanation.

Polkinghorne's book ranges widely. He takes on all the most

thorny problems of theology: the problem of evil, miracles, divine intervention, the incarnation, human freedom, the after-life; and he peppers each of them with science so concentrated as to sting them into agonised knots. But the questions are philosophical: science can twist them more tightly, but it cannot unravel them.

There is much of interest in Polkinghorne's suggestion that divine intervention is best understood in terms of an input into the information content of random distributions. There is much of interest, too, in his pious and believable account of Christ's death and resurrection — perhaps the most useful, because the most surprising, part of this book. But I remain convinced that both of these subjects are better discussed without invoking modern science, and that neither can be understood in scientific terms. They concern not the matter of the world but its form: the personality which shines forth when we abandon the search for causes and ask for reasons instead.

## Laughter in the dark

**Alain de Botton**  
gets down  
on the beach

istic, neurotic, and egotistic cut-out. Howard has a thing going on the side with Zoo-Zoo, who — one can tell from the name — doesn't owe much to reality and is merely a cipher labelled "sex". The Normans have a daughter called Katie, 17, who also spends all the time shopping, and does a line in

## SUMMER THINGS

By Joseph Connolly

Faber, £9.99

ISBN 0 571 18076 6

This novel achieves all the author's intentions. Predominant is the wish to make the reader laugh. Over three novels, Connolly has established himself as a very English comic author, in the tradition of P. G. Wodehouse, Amis (Kingsley and Martin) and Tom Sharpe. His novels have been labelled "romps", for they move at a furious pace and throw their characters into a series of ever more extreme situations.

Connolly has no interest in restraint, and therefore in literary realism: his characters are ludicrously extreme manifestations of one personality trait, and usually personality defect. The gallery of grotesques typically include a corrupt businessman, an impotent loser and a loud-mouthed, sexually voracious teenager. You could hardly have met anyone like this in life, but that isn't the point.

Despite all the jokes, these aren't cheering novels. In Connolly's world, humans are selfish, self-destructive, frail, arrogant and in need of knocking down a peg or two. There is a hardness, almost a nihilistic misanthropy beneath the laugh-out-loud surface.

*Summer Things* focuses on the holiday plans and adventures of a set of archetypal Connolly grotesques. Howard Street is an extremely wealthy, bullying, sex-obsessed property dealer, married to Elizabeth, an extremely material-

torturing men with her good looks. She particularly likes driving weak men crazy, and has picked on Norman Furnish, a one-track coward who works for her father (she goes into his office and deliberately sets out to give him a blow-job under the desk while her father is giving him instructions on some properties: no hol).

Then there are the Street's neighbours, Brian and Doty, who used to be very, very rich, but then went bankrupt in the recession and are now heading for deep, deep poverty — though they are doing their best

to keep up appearances. They have a son called Colin, who is 15 and also has one dominant character trait — the desire for sex. Lastly, there's a character called Melody, who is cheerful, silly, sentimental and (single) mother to Dawn, who like every baby in Connolly's one-trait world, cries relentlessly.

Despite Connolly's ability to keep the reader turning pages and his skill at creating comic situations, this book is strangely depressing. As in the novels of Amis *père* and *fils*, the vision he articulates is unrelenting and bleak. The jokes leave a sour taste in the mouth, mocking cardboard monsters has only limited appeal.

After a few hundred pages, one longs for air. Connolly's jokes have no redeeming quality: we're not invited to laugh at our own follies reflected in the characters. They are too implausible for that, and the jokes therefore don't build up to anything, profound or sincere. It is impossible to fault *Summer Things* on technical grounds, but those who like their novels to have at least some psychological richness would be advised to pack something else for the beach.

Alain de Botton's *Why Proust Can Change Your Life* is published by Picador, out in paperback this month, priced £5.99.

## Artist, harlot, heroine

AS A young woman she may have slithered under a banister wearing nothing but a mask, yet it is her face which is most familiar. As an artist's model, Suzanne Valadon leant her features to the slatterns of Henri Toulouse-Lautrec, to the bathers of Auguste Renoir, to the nymphs and the muses of Pierre Puvis de Chavannes.

Yet fewer will remember how Valadon saw her own face. Only a handful will recognise her from the untutored austerity of an early pastel portrait, from the drawings which Degas so admired, from the intensity of later oils. The legends which sprung up around the antics of this wild, tomboyish woman have tended to eclipse her talents as an artist in her own right.

In restoring to Valadon the artistic credibility she deserved — "You are one of us," Degas once told her, admiring her "wicked supple line" — June Rose hasn't let the legend slip. This biography sparkles with the anecdote and rumour which surrounded the life of a spirited Bohemian, the illegitimate daughter of a rural seamstress who grew up to work as a circus acrobat before bursting on to the art market of Montmartre in 1880 at the age of 15.

Impossible to control, she flitted through a hectic world of dance halls and drinking dens of prowling pimps and rouged-up tarts, of Impressionist painters and dissolute poets. Harlot and heroine, she scandalised French society by taking lovers and then discarding them, by bearing an illegitimate son who grew up to be a roaring drunk and for a time one of France's most popular painters — Maurice Utrillo. In her youth she was an old man's darling, in



Valadon at the centre of her Portrait of the Family, 1913

Rachel Campbell-Johnston

## MISTRESS OF MONTMARTRE

By June Rose

Richard Cohen, £25

ISBN 1 85066 070 3

maturity she became a young man's dream.

Suzanne Valadon died in 1938, having outlived one of her nation's most innovative aesthetic eras. And it is the excitement and freshness of this era which June Rose now

manages to recreate, by seeing it through the eyes and attitudes of a woman living in a world where women couldn't count for much. "I think of women who are writers, lawyers and politicians as monsters, mere freaks... the woman artist is just ridiculous," Renoir once wrote.

Of course Rose exaggerates and elides, leaping to conclusions. It is not that she is glib or even intending to deceive. But rather, that she looks also to entertain. In this she certainly succeeds. This life of Valadon reads almost like a picaresque novel.

## A rare feather in her cap

*The Devil's Chimney* is an allegory for the structure of South African society in this century. The novel's spine is a set of crumbling racial distinctions, stacked up like old bricks: the English, the Boers, the poor whites, the Coloured, the Bantu, the Jews. Under the pressure of personal, political, moral, economic, and climatic forces South Africa lurches

into the abyss of violence underlying apartheid. It's a familiar, distressing history and a challenging context for any writer. Anne Landsman's first novel is an imaginative feat of the highest order. She captures the anguish and cruelty of her subject in a mesh of finely wrought imagery and creates an example of the rarest form of fiction, a beautiful struggling to run an ostrich farm in 1910, the other an aged alcoholic reminiscing through a mist of gin in the 1990s. Both women lose their men and their babies and experience sexual

draws multiple subtle parallels between the dealings of the feather industry and the troubled society of South Africa at large. The intricate system for classifying ostriches by gender, size, colour and quality of plumage echoes the segregation of its human population. Prize birds are branded with a star and those destined to supply feather dusters are marked with a black dot.

The violence intrinsic to ostrich farming mirrors the brutality of diseased social relations. When they are plucked, the ostriches are hooded, just like the Coloured torture victims unveiled by the Truth Commission. The exposure of the feather industry to fashion markets reflects the complex dependency of South Africa on the international economy. The collapse of the feather market in 1915 foreshadows the end of apartheid and the social chaos it unleashed.

An uncharitable account of *The Devil's Chimney* might point out that it contains a single clever idea, fleshed out in the kind of polished prose that is mass produced in American creative writing programs. But no one sensitive to the poetry of a wild, unique country could fail to be moved by Landsman's evocation of the land of her birth. She shows us a harsh but dazzling landscape where "there is always something to poison, or shoot, or chase". She takes us to the Congo Caves and brings each of their caverns to life. Across the miseries of contemporary South Africa Anne Landsman opens a beautiful feather fan.



Landsman: her strong first novel confronts South Africa's history

Ruth Seum

## THE DEVIL'S CHIMNEY

By Anne Landsman

Granta Books, £5.99

ISBN 1 85 207 176 4

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ICE

A NOVEL



THE TIMES THURSDAY MAY 28 1998

## THE LITTLE TRAMP

Chaplin's love life

## Courageous solitude in the high hills of Kashmir

The adventures of a writing life: Julia Blackburn is dazzled by a star of India

Once upon a time, by a river in India, there lived a little English girl called Margaret Rumer Godden. She always knew she wanted to be a writer, and although it was not easy for her she became, in the end, a well-known and successful one. She was born in 1907 and now, 90 years later, she has written a total of 70 books — fiction and non-fiction and children's fiction and poetry — with perhaps a new one due to be completed any day soon.

Probably the best as well as the best-loved of Godden's books is *The River*. It was made into a film by Jean Renoir and it has never been out of print since it first appeared in 1946. As Chisholm says, it reads as if it was written within one week of manic inspiration, although in fact it took years of struggle to produce. It is short and lyrical and not only describes English colonial life in India at the beginning of this century seen through the eyes of children and one child in particular, but also succeeds in enlarging the reader's understanding of childhood itself.

It is an extraordinary book and a very good way of getting to know the author in the thinly disguised form of a stubborn, clever, inquisitive, awkward, questioning 12-year-old girl called Harriet. Harry for short. There is only one main event in the novel, when the girl's brother is killed by a snake. It is then that she realises with a combination of alarm and potent joy that she is going to write about what this tragedy means to her and how it changes the world she inhabits.

Whereas most people try to shuffle off their childish nature in order to become an adult, Godden has resolutely carried it with her, using it in all her finest writing. Like a child she mixes fact and fiction promiscuously together until they become indistinguishable and a novel might tell you more about the events in her life than some of the chapters of her autobiography.

Godden had a happy childhood — "halcyon" is the word she uses, in a country where even though she was always a colonial outsider she felt profoundly at home. Maybe nothing could ever again be as intense and perfect as that last time. Certainly her life has been remarkably restless, moving home more times than I could count, from India to England and back again, "permanently homesick" wherever she is, while dogs and children and first one and then

another husband, struggle to keep up with her.

Anne Chisholm presents this storyteller's life with fairness and detachment and a quiet good humour which allows her subject to rush headlong through marriage and divorce, motherhood and despair, with her writing as the one thing she can always be sure of, can always turn to. She can be a rather overwhelming presence, but then her sheer bravery and her love of the world in all its confusion bring you back on her side. In a letter to her sister when she was on her own in the Kashmir mountains with little money, two young children and a severe bout of paratyphoid, she writes: "I wish the doctor would give me a new face, a new temper, some new ideas and a new husband. There were about 15 funerals under our window this morning." In Calcutta while working in a city hospital she says: "Today I saw a man with a bunch of tuberose and a lemon and

another with a basket full of dead peacocks."

Wherever she is and whatever is happening around her, the books keep on coming. Her reputation was first established with *Black Narcissus* in 1935, but

then apart from *The River* she is the author of such classics as *The Greengate Summer* (1938), *In This House of Brede* (1969) and most recently the acclaimed *Pippa Passes* (1994). She is a popular, rather than a literary writer, but I didn't get the impression that she would want it otherwise. She was appointed OBE in 1993.

There is a marvellous chapter towards the end of this biography which describes going with Godden — she was by then 87, for goodness sake! — to India to film a documentary about her life. She insists on taking a portable lavatory and an ample supply of Pampers Grouse Whisky (for the evenings — Indian gin will do for lunch). When they arrive in Kashmir after a gruelling journey she is untroubled by the heat and confusion: "You must remember it is normal for me to be in India," she remarks complacently. Then she has to endure the shock of returning to places she hasn't seen for more than 50 years. The Narayanganj River in Bangladesh is polluted, the cork tree of her childhood was cut down long ago and the family house is now the headquarters for the local water authority, the stairs too rotten to climb and the garden in ruins.

Towards the end of a month of filming she seems as if she might be in danger of shuffling off her mortal coil, her voice a

whisper, her eyes red, her appetite gone and everyone around her filled with a sense of impending guilt and remorse. But she recovers and a month later on December 31 she is once again embarking on a new novel.

I suppose it has something to do with the skilful and intimate way that this biography is written, for as the narrative of Godden's life unfolds I began to feel that I knew her well. I learnt to accept her and to be fond of her, in spite of her awkward character, perhaps even because of it. In the fiction of my imagination, she has been turned into an old friend.

## BOOKS

## SILENCE BROKE

David Storey's return

## Glory of early days

RICHARD FENCHURCH, the protagonist of David Storey's new novel, was named A Serious Man (or, in accordance with the gentler culture of the time a *homo seriosus*) by his future wife's grandfather when he first visited Apsley Hall in the early 1930s. Forty-five years on, and suffering from acute depression, he returns to the hall, now the home of his daughter Ety, in order to recuperate.

Fenchurch, a once-fashionable novelist, playwright and painter, finds himself, at 65, almost forgotten. His private life is equally fallow, following a divorce from his first wife, Bea, and the suicide of his second, Vivienne. His erratic behaviour — in particular, his sexual advances to female neighbours — has convinced a reluctant Ety that he should not be left alone.

Apsley, for all its attractions, contains its share of snares, especially in view of Ety's reminder that Richard has been told "not to dwell on the past" for, as he replies, "How can I fail to — in a place like this? It comes back

Michael Ardron

## A SERIOUS MAN

By David Storey

Chatto &amp; Windus, £18.99 ISBN 0 224 05158 X

without any warning." The core of the book consists of Richard's reflections on his past, above all the heady years when, as a miner's son with artistic ambitions, he simultaneously courted Bea and embarked on a passionate affair with her mother.

Pondering his recent artistic silence, Richard declares that all there is left to write is "the process of the mind, for the cinema and television have taken over the province of appearance". Storey here fulfils his narrator's injunction, creating a searing portrait not of madness but of the far more elusive condition of distraction. Storey matches his portrait of the mind's fragility with one of its fluidity: the past is not neatly evoked by a wartime billet or the taste of a madeline but is part of an ever-continuous present.

This is a fascinating novel, not least for its links to Storey's earlier work. As well as addressing his familiar themes of class and betrayal, fractured families and mental illness, it reworks many of his key images: the wedding marquee; the dead brother; the young-marrieds in Camden. In particular, the central relationship of a troubled elderly man and his long-suffering daughter recalls the play *Early Days* — although it is handled here with the greater subtlety possible in fiction.

As a young man, Richard proclaimed the pre-eminence of art and likened his own vocation to that of a priest. With *A Serious Man*, Storey confounds the Philistines. This is a major novel and a genuine work of art.

## Monsters unleashed

Mary Shelley has become the evil fairy godmother of genetics and embryology. Her story of how Frankenstein created life and made a monster pervades and influences almost all discussions of new advances in biology. Jon Turney examines this influence by giving us a history of how non-scientists over the past two centuries have interpreted or made sense of what was happening in biological research. His premise is that the science and technology that we ultimately see are partly shaped by images of the work outside the confines of the laboratory. And how right he is. I have accused the media of purveying genetic pornography, using advances in genetics to titillate and excite our anxieties about scientists meddling with life, playing God, or rather, Frankenstein.

Turney places particular emphasis in Shelley's novel on its creation myth, based on science as a substitute for God. The story remains frightening because it depicts a human enterprise that is out of control. Moreover, it makes biology different from other sciences because it touches deep-rooted feelings about the nature of life. The origin of these feelings remains something of a mystery.

When she wrote her novel, *Frankenstein*, biology was still in the province of the amateur. Things changed after the 1870s with physiology becoming established as a subject in the universities and the introduction of legislation to control experiments on animals. The anti-vivisection movement was a strong one and vivisection was used in novels to portray depraved doctors. H. G. Wells's novel *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (1896) was a striking example and *The Times* called it "loathsome". It is, indeed, a common theme in literature to portray scientists as unemotional, and/or insane. The scientist as hero is a very rare species.

Scientists have to bear some responsibility for their image. A good example is the misleading claims in the early part of the century by various scientists that they were on the verge of creating life. Inevitably there was public fascina-

Lewis Wolpert  
**FRANKENSTEIN'S FOOTSTEPS**  
Science, Genetics and Popular Culture  
By Jon Turney  
Yale, £19.95  
ISBN 0 30007 417 4

accepted and highly valued even though it is directly in the tradition of Frankenstein. But the possibilities of manipulating human embryos led to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill. How this came about is a model for further legislation as it followed extensive and wide public debate.

This is an important book — elegantly written — as it helps us to understand public attitudes to biological research. Public involvement in the applications of research are essential even if interest has to be aroused by Frankensteinian images and genetic pornography. Stories, as Turney says, matter, but so does accuracy.

In the interwar period hopes that life could be created in the laboratory were dampened as its complexity became more evident and sensational stories were the exception. However, the very distinguished scientist J. B. S. Haldane turned his attention to the possibilities of biological control and wrote that "if every physical and chemical invention is a blasphemy, every biological invention is a perversion." Among the horrors he had in mind was reproduction outside the womb, so graphically described in Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, published in 1932.

After the war the atom bomb raised new fears. Turney suggests that apocalyptic destruction dulls the mind compared to contemplating changes in life forms that might be brought about by radioactivity causing mutations. This was increasingly linked to anxieties related to altering genes, either by accident or on purpose, as DNA moved into the public consciousness. The term "genetic engineering", with its Frankensteinian connotations, was an unfortunate choice. In 1968, in *The Biological Time Bomb*, Gordon Rattray Taylor wrote that the rate of biological innovation was so high that it could destroy our civilisation.

Yet the birth of Louise Brown in 1978, the first child whose development had been due to *in vitro* fertilisation, brought home the help biological research could give to infertile couples. The creation of "test tube babies" — a misleading term — as only fertilisation occurs in the laboratory — has now become

## In bed with Chaplin

The films of Charles Chaplin are in a state of dusty disuse, the victims of fashion and defunct format. For 50 years battered prints of his monochrome silent movies have been shown at the wrong speed on screens far too small, while irrelevant musical accompaniment and jolly commentary have coarsened his humour. Thus Britain's foremost film-maker has been overlooked by the fans of Scorsese and Tarantino.

But Chaplin has been blessed with outstanding champions. David Robinson's magisterial biography, published in 1985, confirmed Chaplin as a towering genius, while Kevin Brownlow and David Gill's *Unknown Chaplin* films revealed the startling inventiveness of his working method.

Kenneth S. Lynn, a sometime Harvard professor, has attempted to rival Robinson's life, but his lack of sympathy for his subject causes him to repeat the horrors Chaplin endured during his American years. The two main charges against Chaplin are that he was morally corrupt, persistently indulging his passion for under-age girls, and that he aided and abetted communists.

When it came to nymphs, Chaplin was a serial offender, but Lynn does not instil confidence by explaining the great



An enduring May-September romance: Oona and Charles Chaplin in London, 1958

Nicholas Wapshott

## CHARLIE CHAPLIN AND HIS WORLD

By Kenneth S. Lynn

Aurum Press, £25 ISBN 1 85410 555 8

vincingly dismisses. The FBI could not find enough to bring charges against Chaplin, despite 50 years of investigation: the House Un-American Activities Committee ultimately declined to interview him; and even Lynn himself concedes, with regret, that "the preliminary searches conducted at my behest in archives in Moscow came up dry". Yet Lynn is happy to pass on every piece of damaging hearsay and draw attention to any association to

suggest Chaplin was a communist.

Chaplin repeatedly denied he was a communist or contributed to party funds, but this was not enough to prevent his exile from the United States in 1952. Truman's Attorney-General, James McGranery, could not make the communist charge stick, so, a devout Roman Catholic, he revoked Chaplin's residency permit on suspicion that he had encouraged his lover Joan Barry to have an abortion. The resulting banishment was a tragedy for Chaplin and for his adopted country. It is hard to credit that 50 years on, with the Cold War and the anti-communist hysteria that surrounded it long gone, a serious biographer can revisit the events and repeat the inquiry.









Bargains of the week: from a walking break on Eigg and Muck to a tour of the Great Wall and the Forbidden City

**PACK YOUR BAGS**

A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and further afield, many at bargain prices.

**BRITISH ISLES**

A WALK on the Scottish islands of Eigg and Muck promises varied flora and bird populations. The seven-day Naturetrek tour uses farm-house accommodation, leaving Inverness on July 11 to coincide with arriving trains and onward ferries. The cost is £395 including meals, transport and guides. Details: 01962 733051.

**GOLF** and gambling breaks are promoted to tie in with the Laytown Races, near Dublin, where racing is held on the beach on June 9. Golf is near the Portmarnock Hotel & Golf Links course - two nights' B&B from June 8-10, with gourmet dinner and

transfers to the racing costs £1225, excluding flights. Details: 00 353 1 846 0011.

**CRICKET** fans unable to get Test tickets for England v Sri Lanka at The Oval on August 29 can buy a package to include a night's stay near Heathrow on the previous night, breakfast and transfers for £119.95 from Superbreak. Details: 0161-238 5257.

**SPEND** an evening with Emyl Hughes on June 13, debating England's World Cup chances against Tunisia. The former Liverpool star, and snooker's Dennis Taylor, host a quiz at a Warner sports weekend at Nidd Hall, near York. Details: 0870-601 6012.

**LEAVE** Stansted, Manchester or Luton on June 17 for a seven-day tour of Ireland including Dublin, Kerry and Killarney. The CIE Tours package, at £498, has six nights' B&B, meals, transfers and flights. Details: 0990 143 910.

**REDUCTIONS** are available for a stay at a Co Donegal cottage. Sleeping six, the two cottages cost £250 a week from May 31, June 6 or June 13. Details: 01865-390402.

**EUROPE**

THE greatest of all Champagne villages is purported to be Ay, which stages its biannual festival over the weekend of July 3-5. Arblaster & Clarke Wine Tours has put together a trip including two nights in Epervy, dinners and tastings, for £289. Details: 01730 893344.

**BELLE FRANCE** will transport any wine that customers buy back to the hotel during its cycling holidays around Provence. Seven-night tours leaving from June 20-30 cost £599 including Eurostar, bikes, guides and half-board accommodation. Each day involves up to 15 miles of cycling, with luggage transferred onward. Details: 01797-223 777.

**AN EXHIBITION** of works by the 17th-century Baroque master Bernini brings together many of his finest works at the Borghese Gallery in Rome. The exhibition, which marks the 400th anniversary of Bernini's birth, runs from June 4 to August 27 and Italian tour has weekend packages from £319, to include transfers and accommodation. Details: 0171-605 7500.

**EARLY-SEASON** camping offers are now flooding the market, among them discounts of £100 on holidays with Keycamp taken in June. Holidays in Brittany and Gascony now start at £170 per family for tents; £298 per family for a mobile home. Details: 0181-395 4000.

**PLACIDO DOMINGO** sings *Le Prophète* in Vienna on June 6, and JMB Travel has flights from Heathrow, tickets in the stalls and two nights' B&B close to the Opera House for £619, departing June 5. Details: 01905 425628.

**GOLF** courses across the Channel rely heavily on the British market, none more so than Hotel du Parc near Le Touquet. Bridge Travel has two-night breaks from £208 which include B&B, two green fees for nearby courses and Dover-Calais ferry crossings. Details: 01992 456049.

**A WEEK'S** stay at a small hotel in a fishing village in the Canaries is on offer at £495 for two sharing at the Hotel Club de Mar, Gran Canaria, leaving Gatwick for Las Palmas on June 8. Details from Cricketer Holidays: 01892 064242.



See the glory of the Victoria Falls on a six-day trip to Zimbabwe with SARtravel and receive a £60 discount for travel before June 30. Discounted prices start at £799, to include international and internal flights and five nights' B&B. Details: 0171-287 1133.

**LONG HAUL**

CHINA is being discounted in June by Qantas Holidays, which is running seven-night trips to Beijing from Heathrow for £549, down from £699. The price includes B&B, tours to the Great Wall, Summer Palace and Forbidden City and transfers. Details: 0990 673464.

**LEARN** how to become a ranger. Wexas is offering a ten-day introductory course in South Africa covering conservation, ecology, animal habitat and anatomy, snake bite treatment and man's impact on nature. The £880 price includes transport within Africa, accommodation, meals and ranger course certificate - international flights, from £381, are extra. Details: 0171-589 3315.

**BARGAINS** are still available to the Far East. Two weeks on Langkawi, an island off Malaysia's west coast, costs £549, including flights and accommodation, with Far East Travel Centre. The company quotes three-night packages to Bangkok from £310 and to Kuala Lumpur for £329. Details: 0171-414 8808.

**TRAVEL** from Scotland, Canada and take advantage of the cheapest charter flight with Bluebird Holidays. Return tickets to Toronto from Glasgow start at £167 for flights leaving tomorrow, returning by June 24. To Vancouver, prices start at £311 and to Calgary, £313.50. Details: 0990 320000.

**TOURISM** to Egypt is starting to recover but bargains are still widely available. Bates Worldwide is cutting £50 off Nile cruises, which also includes a stay in Cairo. The new price is £775 for departures on September 12 and 26, including flights, transfers, B&B accommodation, tours and a guide. Details: 01306 885991.

All prices are per person and based on two sharing a room, unless otherwise stated.

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## CYCLING

## Winn beats team after surge on Cat and Fiddle

BY PETER BRYAN

JULIAN WINN, yet another international mountain bike rider who has turned his attention to road racing, mastered all that the Peak District could throw at him — and held off the cream of overseas opposition — to win the fourth stage of the 900-mile Prudhomme yesterday. Riding for Wales, Winn's victory was all the more impressive for the manner in which it was achieved.

The route between Chester and Nottingham was especially hard during the seven-mile climb of the 1,500-foot Cat and Fiddle between Macclesfield and Buxton, which came midway through the stage, sandwiched between the lesser hills of Kalsall and The Gutter.

The Welsh team had decided that one of the squad should attempt an early break on the 95-mile stage to test the opposition while hoping that others would help in forming

The Wales rider knew that he had a quality companion in Dawson, the 100 miles record holder and the British best all-rounder champion. In return, Winn had great determination to offer.

The peloton appeared neither quick nor determined to pull back the two leaders until the US Postal squad, with riders placed third and fourth overall behind Gan's Stuart O'Grady and Boardman, sent Dariusz Baranowski and Tyler Hamilton in pursuit.

On the Cat and Fiddle, the two leaders had recovered from a bad patch and tackled the upper slopes with strength that took their lead over the US team almost to six minutes. Behind, Gan's full squad of six occupied the front positions in the main group, keeping the new fugitives in sight.

Dawson narrowly beat Winn over the summit and the pair started the twisting descent into Buxton at 50mph. Their lead, however, was being slowly reduced as four chasers and the peloton gained at the rate of more than 10 seconds per mile.

Winn won the final hill climb on The Gutter, 18 miles from the finish, and the pair held on to their lead until the end having been ahead of the field for 79 miles. Winn said: "I took the lead half a mile from the end as I wasn't too confident about my sprint today."

"Our team hadn't done much in the race so far, so we decided it was time to make a race of it. Our team manager, Phil Jones, told us that we had to go with every attack."

"It was certainly a hard race and there is more to come tomorrow when we go into the Welsh mountains before the finish in Cardiff. I can only try to do my best but I know I'm likely to have tired legs because of today's effort."

O'Grady, of Australia, won the sprint for third place from a bunch of 70 to retain his overall lead with an increased advantage of 21sec from Boardman.



Rostron, the defending champion, plays out of a bunker, during her round of 77 at Walton Heath yesterday

## Global racers feed on speed

Edward Gorman looks forward to more thrills in the next sprint by sail

The Whitbread Round the World Race is now a 32,000-mile sprint. Every running of the event since 1973 has produced an advance. This latest one, which finally finished amid spectacular scenes on the Solent on Sunday, has raised the game and the intensity of competition to a higher level.

Paul Cayard and EF Langauge won the race because he and many of his crew had no previous experience of the Whitbread and treated it like one huge America's Cup or Volvo race round the cans.

Cayard's problem was not trying to maintain his speed and his advantage but working out how to take the foot off the accelerator.

This is why the more experienced Whitbread veterans got left behind and why in the next race — the Volvo Ocean Race in 2001 — we can expect

more grand prize-type sailors with inshore and Olympic backgrounds to appear on the crew lists. This new intensity is the deathknell for many of the original attractions of the race — the sense of adventure, the danger, the human spirit pitted against the elements.

Now the oceans are simply a race track, nothing more, and it is all about winning. The challenge for Volvo is to ensure that the thrills of this event are shared by more and more people. Most of the fundamentals are right — a fast and exciting boat and only one class to concentrate on, scoring by points and a combination of short and long legs. Advances in communica-

tions technology have made the Whitbread almost a spectator sport through e-mail, live television footage and the Internet.

The Whitbread or the Volvo could now become the undisputed World Cup of sailing and push the more obscure concepts behind the America's Cup firmly into second place.

Few who have followed this race would disagree that it has been too long. The media have suffered from fatigue and so have the competitors. This has been made worse by the fact that the main issue was decided by the end of February.

There are strong arguments for starting the race later in the year and cutting out at least two legs. However, nine legs have offered a good balance between long ocean passages and testing and exciting short sprints. Another option is to cut the length of stopovers, when the race loses momentum. This would bring the shore teams closer to the competitive heart of the race and increase the "pit lane" atmosphere.

More boats next time — Volvo wants up to 15 — would help to keep the issue alive for longer, but costs have to be kept down to attract new sponsors. Bruce Farr, the designer, believes that carbon masts should not be introduced because of the cost implications and the added element of danger in an even stiffer boat. Lawrie Smith has called for the very expensive "Code Zero" sail to be banned and there are clearly strong arguments for a much tighter sail regime next time. Some would argue that, with eight of the ten boats this time designed by Farr, the differences should be eliminated in a uniform design that would be cheaper to build.

Everyone knows that Whitbread has confined the race within limited budgets, which is understandable in a company whose beer does not sell abroad, but the race's roots are deep and, when it is marketed and promoted properly, it should flourish under its new colours.

## GOLF

## Ratcliffe in hurry to qualify for main event

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

THE Old Course at Walton Heath proved a severe test as only two players posted sub-par totals yesterday in qualifying for the English women's Amateur championship under a dark Surrey sky. Elaine Ratcliffe, from Sandiway in Cheshire, added a 73, one under par, to her opening 71 to lead on 144, four under, with Liza Walters, of Chevin, Derbyshire, next on 147.

Walters, 18, who is going to Florida State University in August, was furious after a 73 that she felt was ruined by the slow pace of play. "I was four under after seven," she said, "but we waited on every shot from the 5th and I couldn't keep my composure. I lost my temper a bit because I was so frustrated."

No action was taken against the people in front, which included Kim Rostron, the defending champion, who started with a triple-bogey six at the 1st, a daunting 237-yard par three. She tangled with some heather in a bunker and had to take a penalty drop. Conscious of having to scurry thereafter, she remained composed enough to compile a 77.

Walton Heath is normally fast and hard-running, but, after recent rain, it has been playing every inch of its 6,184 yards and even with six par-fives was a long way round for all but the biggest hitters.

"It's playing fair and is a good test," Ratcliffe, who had three birdies in the first seven holes and finished with a fine birdie three at the 18th, said. One of those floating dangerously in the middle of the draw will be Jill Thornhill, the former English and British champion, who is an institution here at her home club. She had a 75 and said: "I almost played well."

It did not go unnoticed that she had changed her caddy. John, her husband, who had been in charge of her trolley in a first-round 81, had to play in a seniors' match. Perhaps it was coincidence that his wife's play improved markedly.

Emma Dugdale, the former British champion, followed an opening 90 with a 71 yesterday that equalled the best round and put her in a four-way play-off for the last two qualifying places. She and Kate Burton, the beaten finalist last year, claimed them with pars at the 1st.

## DANCE SPORT

## Britain left reeling by overseas invasion

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

JAPANESE and American dancers have quickstepped away with the early titles at the Open British championships in Blackpool this week after a series of spectacular results that have left home competitors reeling.

In one key event, the professional rising star modern, which covers the four dances of waltz, foxtrot, tango and quickstep, not a single British couple made it into the final seven, with just one home pair, Mark and Jayne Shuttler, in the last 12. This event was won by Igor and Irina Suvorov, from the United States, with Japanese taking the next three places.

In the senior Latin, for couples aged over 35 and dancing the cha-cha, samba, rumba and paso doble, Yoichi and Sachiko Mochizuki, of Japan, took the championship, having earlier been placed third in the senior modern event.

The under-21 Latin, for amateurs, was won by Eugene Katschman and Maria Manuova, of the United States, winners of the open United Kingdom championship earlier this year. England had one couple, James Jordan and his partner, Melia, in the final. They finished fourth.

Bill Sparks, another top American dancer, won the rising stars Latin championship for professionals, dancing with an English partner, Kimberley Mitchell, but for his own country. Once again, no British couple made it to the final six.

There was further disappointment on the home front when last year's amateur Latin champions, Matthew and Nicole Cutler, of England, were beaten into second place by Michael Wenink and Beata, of South Africa, the runners-up last year. Just five British couples made it into the top 25 and only four into the top 25 of the under-21 modern, won by Lina Koreiva and Alra Buzulyte, of Lithuania.

England is expected to reassert its dominance in the professional modern championship tomorrow, when the champions, Marcus and Karen Hilton, of Rochdale, and Luca and Lorraine Baricchi, of London, will contest the title.

HOW THEY FARED IN THE WHITBREAD RACE									
Yacht (skipper)	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	Points
1. EF Langauge (Paul Cayard)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	686
2. Mark Cup (Gordon Dutton)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	695
3. Swedish Whirl (Göran Knutson)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	699
4. Innovation (Knutson) (Knut Knutson)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	633
5. Silk Cut (Lewie Smith)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	630
6. Chesapeake (George Gilman)	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	613
7. Thosha (Paul Shanderson)	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	628
8. Brunel (Roy Hargreaves)	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	615
9. EF Education (Christine Barlow)	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	578
10. America's Challenge (Ross Field)	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	48



Paul Cayard

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This deal is from last year's Gold Cup quarter-finals.

Dealer South East-West Game IMPs

♠ A Q J 9  
♥ A J 10 8  
♦ K  
♣ 10 7 4 3

♠ K 10 7 8 5 4  
♥ Q 8  
♦ Q 8 6  
♣ K Q 9 5 2

♠ 8 2  
♥ 9 7 4 3  
♦ Q J 8 2  
♣ J 8 6

♠ 3  
♥ K 5 2  
♦ A 10 8 7 5 4 3  
♣ A

South West North East  
1 D 1 S Pass Pass  
2 D (2) Pass 3 NT Pass  
3 D Pass 4 D All Pass

Contract: Six Diamonds by South. Lead: King of clubs.

(1) Hoping to leave in a re-opening double for penalties (an immediate double would be negative, for take-out).

(2) Eight-card suits are not designed to defend at the one level.

Declarer won the ace of clubs and cashed the king of diamonds, revealing the 4-0 split. The only chance was to reduce his trumps, preparing for a three-card endgame of A109 of trumps against East's Q16, in which South leads the ten to endplay his opponent. South needs to ruff four times in hand to achieve this. One ruff can be taken immediately. Another can be taken using the ace of spades as entry. The other two entries must come in hearts, requiring a finesse.

Declarer starts by ruffing a club, finessing the queen of spades, and cashing the ace of spades. The trap now is to discard a low heart. Then when South later plays a heart up, intending to finesse for the extra entry, West can insert the queen to block the suit. Townsend avoided this by discarding the king of hearts on the ace of spades. Now he could ruff a second club, finesse the jack of hearts, ruff a third club, reach dummy for the last time with the ace of hearts, and finally ruff a spade to reach the desired three-card endgame.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kasparov wins

With a rest day after game two of the Shirov-Kramnik match to decide the challenger to Garry Kasparov, I revert today, once more, to Kasparov's brilliant performance against the grandmaster-packed Israeli team. In a simultaneous display over two rounds, Kasparov scored six wins, two draws and no losses. This is by far the most impressive simultaneous performance, with full sight of the board, by any champion.

White: Emil Sutovsky  
Black: Garry Kasparov  
Kasparov vs Israel team  
Tel Aviv 1998

Sicilian Defence  
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Qc7 6. Bg5 e6 7. Bf4 Be7 8. Qd2 O-O 9. O-O Rf8 10. Bb3 Bb7 11. Bc2 Bc8 12. Bb3 Bb7 13. Bc2 Bc8 14. Bb3 Bb7 15. Bc2 Bc8 16. Bb3 Bb7 17. Bc2 Bc8 18. Bb3 Bb7 19. Bc2 Bc8 20. Bb3 Bb7 21. Bc2 Bc8 22. Bb3 Bb7

Diagram of final position  
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Qc7 6. Bg5 e6 7. Bf4 Be7 8. Qd2 O-O 9. O-O Rf8 10. Bb3 Bb7 11. Bc2 Bc8 12. Bb3 Bb7 13. Bc2 Bc8 14. Bb3 Bb7 15. Bc2 Bc8 16. Bb3 Bb7 17. Bc2 Bc8 18. Bb3 Bb7 19. Bc2 Bc8 20. Bb3 Bb7 21. Bc2 Bc8 22. Bb3 Bb7

Here is the full cross-table of the match between the two leading Dutch grandmasters Jan Timman and Loek van Wely. Significantly, the final four games, which ultimately decided the match, were played at speed-chess time limits and were therefore ineligible to be rated.

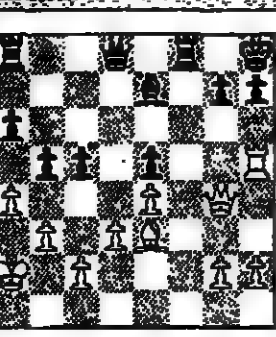
Van Wely Timman  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 Pts  
% 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 75%  
% 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 50%

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Perez vs Bravo, Cuba, 1997.

How did White, despite his arrears of a rook, blast his way through to the black king?

Solution on page 50



## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BERKSHIRE  
a. A bridge bidding convention

b. A pig  
c. An other hunt

GARROCHA  
a. Cold asparagus soup

b. A gypsy dance  
c. A goat

GIMBRI  
a. A Saharan language

b. A guitar  
c. A head-shawl

BULLAMACOW  
a. Corned beef

b. A tropical bird  
c. A megaphone

Answers on page 50

## SPORT IN BRIEF

## Rodgers in share of early lead

■ **GOLF:** Chris Rodgers showed his liking for the old course at Cog Magog in Cambridge to share the lead after the opening round of the 24th Lagan Trophy yesterday. In conditions ideal for low scoring Rodgers returned an opening round 68, two under par and three strokes below the standard scratch score.

Rodgers was matched by Daniel Kitteridge, from the Great Hadham club in Hertfordshire. They were one stroke clear of Graeme Clark, from Doncaster, and Steven Barwick, from East Berkshire.

■ **ROWING:** Jan Stern improved her chances of winning the City of Bath Open singles this week for the third time in succession after moving to within a win of a quarter-final place yesterday. Stern is likely to face Margaret Dyer, a four-times champion, from Clevedon Promenade, which would set up a potential semi-final with Ann Burgess, from Kingswood and Haulham, who won in 1992 and 1994.

■ **ORIENTEERING:** Steve Hale and Yvette Hague carry Britain's medal hopes in the third event in the World Cup series at Windermere today. Both finished with bronze medals in the opening classic distance event in Ireland and expect to better that either today or in the short-distance race on Sunday.

■ **ATHLETICS:** Josia Thugwane, the Olympic champion, announced yesterday that she will not take part in the marathon at Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in September.

## Tourists with rounder minds relish triumph

## SARAH POTTER



Sarah Potter

At last it has happened — an English win on West Indies soil. It may not have come in the cricket Test series last winter, but it would be churlish not to salute the achievements of the England women's rounders team.

Bequia is the largest of the Grenadines and is nine miles south of St Vincent. The island is also home to the Caribbean Rounders Association and the National Rounders Association, based in Nottingham, logged the fact and organised the first official England tour.

Every schoolgirl in the land is taught rounders, but the youngest player on this trip was 20. All the players compete in local leagues and one, Carol Neale, from Leicester, is a 45-year-old grandmother.

"They say life begins at 40 and it does," she said. "That's when I started playing for England. I loved it at school, but didn't know you could carry on. Since I started it up again, I haven't looked back."

Neale's new beginning came when a friend invited her to play in a game organised by the local hair-dressing salon. "My kids were at an age when I was playing cricket and football with them, but I wasn't doing any other sport," she said. "Then I got told after one match that someone from the England team had been watching me. That's how I got invited for a trial."

The watcher was Mark Liffitt, the coach for seven years. "He travels a lot around the country and knows most of the girls," Neale said. "It's also word of mouth. If someone says there's a brilliant player somewhere, Mark goes to see. The trial for the West Indies trip was at an East Midlands school and there must have been easily a hundred players. I thought they'd be bound to go for the young ones. I couldn't believe it when I was picked and when the letter arrived the whole family shouted hooray."

For Neale, a single parent who works as a part-time cleaner at a cinema, it felt like

everything was happening at once. Her daughter Donna, 22, was getting married three days before the departure date and her son, Scott, would have to celebrate his 21st birthday without her. "They both took the mucky at first, but they were really pleased for me. Scott told me to go because I wouldn't get another chance and Donna said she didn't want any money for her wedding."

Rounders is not an affluent game and England players who were unable to find their own sponsor had to foot the bill themselves. "When I realised how much it was going to cost, I just thought 'Oh no,'" she said. "I applied to Leicester City Council for a grant and my dad said he'd give me £100. I was really chuffed about that because they're pensioners and need it, but that's what he wanted. A teacher at a local school gave me £100 and an uncle £50. When the grant came, I was nearly in tears because it meant I was really on my way."

Not before she had arranged to get a passport, though. "I had a one-year one to go for a weekend to France a few years ago," she said. "The only other time I'd been abroad was to a beer festival when I was two months pregnant with my son."

For Neale, arriving in Bequia was like stepping back in time. "It was beautiful out there and I can't get over how friendly the people were," she said. "We stayed with families and all the houses were on this steep hill, some of them on stilts. It had a concrete track, no kerbs and sheep wandering around. A rooster woke us up every morning."

The first rain in four months did little to soften the playing area — photographs show it to be bald, rough ground. "They had some good players, but we backed each other up in the field and were less erratic," Neale said. "I think they learnt a lot and the crowds loved it."

There is talk now is of another tour, perhaps later this year, to the United States, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand all play the game and, of course, a rematch with West Indies is hoped for.

"I'd love it if they could come here," Neale said, "but it would be a big shock. The little girl who gave up her room for us had a poster of a big road with houses either side and the words underneath: 'This is A Road.' I tell you, if I won some money, I'd go there for a holiday — it was that amazing."

Neale's dream trip

## BRIGHTON

THUNDERBOLT  
2.10 EBF NOV 2000  
3.40 HAYES  
Our Nov 2000  
URGENT: 2.10 EBF NOV 2000

GOING GOOD TO 2.10

2.10 EBF NOV 2000

2.40 BRIGHTON STAKES

2.40 BRIGHTON STAKES

3.10 PLANAGAN AND LAGAN

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O'Neill tucks into a modest portion of his staple diet

# Weighty case for overeating

Is training for sport a licence to eat? And could practically anyone pull off feats like running across the Sahara or dragging a sledge across the Antarctic if only they could get their hands on enough food and drink? These are questions raised this week by reports of the amazing tuna sandwich eating champion of Harrogate.

Stephen O'Neill, 17, who recently became the junior 800 metres champion of Yorkshire, apparently ploughs his way through 25 tuna sandwiches a day: up to six for breakfast, 15 in his packed lunch and four for supper. At bedtime, he makes do with a large plateful of pasta or rice (with the inevitable tuna added) and throughout the day, whenever he is hungry, he tops up with snacks of apples and cakes.

O'Neill, who stands 6ft 2in and weighs 11st 5lb, believes that he is underweight. "I guess I'm lucky," he said, "because I can eat as much as I like and still not put on weight." He believes his food intake is the secret of his training and fits his prodigious eating workouts around his daily running sessions.

Yet he is by no means the world record-holder for big-eating sportsmen. Sporting lore has a rich menu of giants who have gorged themselves beyond the appetites of slighter mortals.

Saturday marks the retirement

in Tokyo of the Hawaiian-born sumo wrestler, Konishiki, said to be the heaviest wrestler in the sport's 1,300-year history. The Dump Truck or Meat Bomb, as he is known, has been put on a three-year diet to lose half of his 43st fighting weight. He entered the sport at a mere 27st and bulked up on a traditional sumo stew called *chanko nabe*.

One of the greatest of Great Britain's homegrown big-eaters was the England football goalkeeper, William "Fatty" Foulke, who weighed in at 23st and once polished off all 11 pre-match breakfasts laid on for him and his Chelsea team-mates.

However, the most prodigious amount of food consumed in what can be classed as a sporting venture led — amazingly — to a loss in weight. The ultimate sporting diet is documented in mouth-watering detail in a new book by Mike Stroud, *Survival of the Fittest* (Jonathan Cape, £16.99). Stroud is a compulsive explorer and a sports scientist who has put his body through challenges that most of us would consider crazy. He has journeyed the Himalayas and the length of the Amazon, he has run in the Sahara Marathon of the Sands — billed as the world's toughest foot-race — and, most



famously, he teamed up with Ranulph Fiennes, the explorer, to be the first to walk unsupported from coast to coast across the Antarctic continent.

While dragging a sledge across the South Pole, Stroud did detailed research on diet and its link with

**'He once polished off all 11 pre-match breakfasts laid on for him and his team-mates'**

bodyweight. The daily mountain of food was enormous and makes O'Neill's 25 sandwiches look like a slimmer's snack.

"I considered an ideal intake should be as much as 6,500 calories each day," he wrote, "but to haul a sledge filled with 100 days' rations containing that much energy was not a practical proposition. Instead,

I decided that the best compromise was to eat only 5,500 calories and accept the loss of bodyweight."

It was a mistake. On some of their toughest days, Stroud and Fiennes burnt more than 11,000 calories each. Their energy use far exceeded any measurements previously reported in scientific literature. For example, tests on cyclists participating in the Tour de France showed that riders use only about 8,000 calories per day.

"When Ran Fiennes and I returned," Stroud wrote, "our weights were down by nearly 25 kilograms [55lb]. With this weight loss, we were absolutely ravenous, which, to a non-expert, might not seem surprising. Nevertheless, it was actually unexpected — most people who starve to such low weights are profoundly anorexic."

"But Ran and I were not like famine victims. We remained hungry in the face of great weight-loss because, despite eating too little to meet our needs, we had maintained a very large throughput and so had no marked vitamin or trace element deficiencies. Indeed, rather than anorexia, our drive to consume was total and we both ate day and night for several weeks after coming home."

The message of Stroud's book

and O'Neill's sandwiches is that the secrets of health, human performance and weight control are built into our evolutionary design. The whole balance of our physiology is set up to overcome the rigours of a mobile lifestyle with a varied and mainly vegetarian food supply — "the life led by our ancestors, who were genetically almost identical to ourselves, until just 10,000 years ago".

Despite the differences that we display in life and in the sporting arena, all of us, according to Stroud, are but a few steps away from the wandering hunter-gatherers who once roamed Africa.

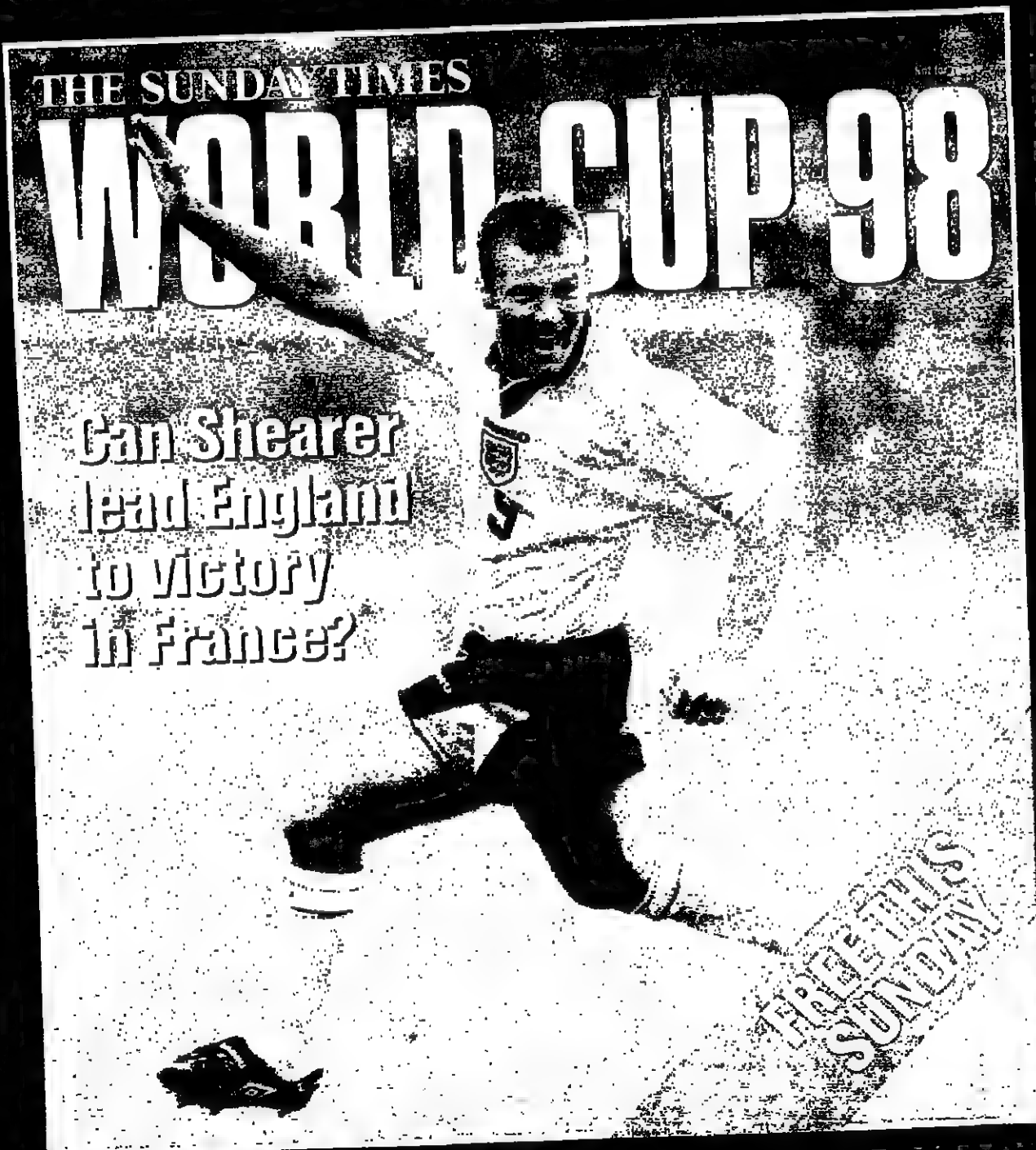
**W**e are born to play hard and eat as much as we can get — but the trouble starts when we miss out on the hard exercise. In Stroud's book, there are no excuses. Almost all of us, he believes, have tremendous sporting potential and can, if we wish, run across deserts or frozen continents.

More practically, perhaps, we can all, like Stephen O'Neill, eat as many sandwiches as we could ever dream of, like Mike Stroud at the South Pole, still watch the weight drop off. But this only works if each time your hands reach for the tuna, your feet stretch out for the trainers.

JOHN BRYANT

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

# The definitive 64-page guide to France 98



Can Shearer lead England to victory in France?

**Alex Ferguson picks his England team**  
**Hugh McIlvanney celebrates the genius of Brazil**  
**The 10 greatest World Cup goals**

**PLUS NINE FREE PANNI WORLD CUP STICKERS**

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS



O'Neill, suitably nourished by his tuna sandwich overdose, takes to the streets of Harrogate to train

# COMPANY GOLF DAYS RESULTS

The four top scorers in the individual

stroke play competitions played on the company golf days listed below now compile the company team eligible to qualify for a regional final

TITLE SPONSOR

**Mees Pierson**

100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200

8 MAY	LUXFER GROUP LIMITED	KINGS NORTON	168
	P WATKINS 20 P FARMER 22 J JENNINGS 24 J HAYES 25		
8 MAY	ROYAL & SUN ALLIANCE	KINGSWOOD	143
	D HALLPATRICK 20 D BARR 30 W FORTINBROOK 32 J ARDS 38		
8 MAY	ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT TOBACCO SPECIALISTS	COPT HEATH	104
	H WICKLEY 25 J HUNTER 28 J BARNES 30 P GARDNER 31		
8 MAY	XTRA-VISION	DRUIDS GREEN	134
	B BROWNE 23 J MCALLISTER 29 P CAMPBELL 32 P TUTE 31		
12 MAY	WILLIS CORRODON GOLF SOCIETY	PELDISTOWE FERRY	142
	H BENTLEY 24 J WARD 27 J JENNINGS 28 H BALLE 30		
13 MAY	FMS	SOUTH WINCHESTER	123
	D BOUTHAIRIE 23 K HODGKIN 27 D HODGKIN 28 B BROWNAN 30		
13 MAY	BP OIL UK LTD	DUKES COURSE	130
	P FROST 20 H LUGAN 27 J CLELAND 31 J HELLER 38		
13 MAY	INTERFOCUS	ROYAL MID-SURREY	131
	J JENNINGS 25 J ROBERTS 28 K TALBOT 29 J AINSWORTH 25		
14 MAY	B.C.H. SHOPFITTERS LTD	ASTON WOOD	132
	H BENTLEY 20 J JENNINGS 24 J HODGKIN 28 P FARMER 28		
14 MAY	SCHROEDER/SKANDIA	WHEBE	128
	C CAMPBELL 25 P HODGKIN 28 J SHARP 30 H BARNES 30		
14 MAY	NATWEST MORTGAGE SERVICES GOLF SOCIETY	TELFORD	140
	A CHESBROUGH 27 J BARR 30 D GARDNER 30 J JULY 32		
15 MAY	HANCOCKS HOLDINGS	ROTLEY PARK	138
	A HANCOCK 26 P FARMER 27 J JENNINGS 28 G LEE 35		
15 MAY	THE CHASE MANHATTAN BANK	OLD THORNS	112
	A GARDNER 33 P BROWN 32 S GILLIES 30 S TYLER 39		
15 MAY	NELSON BAKERWELL	R.A.C.	122
	S CAMPBELL 22 H BARNES 24 B JENNINGS 28 D WATKINS 30 S GILLIES 31		
17 MAY	HOLLAND & SHERRY LTD	PEEBLES	134
	G BARR 26 A TUTE 27 A GARDNER 30 C GIBBS 32		
18 MAY	SINCLAIR ROCHE & TEMPERLEY	THE WILDERNESS	127
	L HAYES 26 J BARR 30 P WATKINS 32 C BROWN 31		
19 MAY	EXPRO INTERNATIONAL GROUP PLC	CALCOT PARK	133
	H BARNES 24 C BARNES 28 J BARNES 30 A CAMPBELL 33		
19 MAY	TURKISH AIRLINES	BATCHWORTH PARK	116
	H BARNES 27 J BARNES 28 J BARR 30 P GIBBS 31		
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Hill reaffirms h











# Liverpool give £2m German fitness test

By David Maddock and Matt Dickinson

LIVERPOOL are close to signing Sean Dundee, the £2 million German striker, who flew to Anfield yesterday for a medical as the drawn-out deal entered a second week.

Liverpool said last night that they "expect to be able to proceed with the transfer within the next few days".

Dundee, 26, plays for relegated Karlsruhe. Born in South Africa, he is a naturalised German and was top scorer in the Bundesliga two seasons ago, a feat that earned him a single cap.

Liverpool could also complete another signing within the week, after Steve Staunton declined a new contract with Aston Villa. The Ireland defender, who becomes a free agent, wishes to rejoin Liverpool, for whom he played 90 times.

Manchester United have withdrawn from talks with Middlesbrough over the possible sale of Gary Pallister. The deal, though, is likely to go through if Jaap Stam, United's record £10 million signing, avoids injury in the World Cup. United completed one sale yesterday when Ben Thornley, a 23-year-old winger, joined Huddersfield Town.

Tottenham Hotspur are expected to clinch the £3 million transfer of Murat Yakin from VfB Stuttgart this week. The Switzerland player, who appeared against Chelsea in the Cup Winners' Cup final, was with Christian Gross, the Spurs manager, at Grasshopper Zurich. He can play at centre half or in midfield.

Rami Gardes, 32, the French defender, has signed a new one-year deal with Arsenal after changing his mind about retiring.

Mark Goldberg hopes his takeover of Crystal Palace will be finalised tomorrow, allowing him to install Terry Venables as manager. Goldberg, who is buying the club from Ron Noades, also wants to persuade Attilio Lombardo, who is sought by Chelsea, to remain at Selhurst Park.

"The takeover details are in the hands of solicitors and very close to completion," he said yesterday. "I have asked everybody to hold any decisions until it is finalised."

# 'It often looks as if he is the victim of his own life rather than its master'

## The 'keeper who could not save himself

Kevin McCarra on the strife and times of Andy Goram, a player with a rare talent for notoriety

Andy Goram's grasp has been weakening. His private life has been slipping from him and making its way into newspapers, where allegations of unedifying behaviour in a relationship with a Celtic employee appeared recently. His touch was no longer sure on the pitch, either, and when Rangers lost the Tennents Scottish Cup final to Hearts of Midlothian this month, Goram conceded the decisive goal to a shot that he would once have saved.

He has now walked out of the Scotland World Cup squad at a moment when his hold on a place in the team had become precarious. The goalkeeper blames his retirement from international football on the press and it is believed that further embarrassing reports will be published shortly. However, although the attentions of journalists can prove distressing, Goram's own life often appears to be the greatest torment that he faces.

On tour in the United States, a jowly Goram had cut a subdued figure as he drifted through the team hotel in New Jersey. "It was all getting on top of him," Alex Miller, the Scotland assistant manager, said. "He wasn't the same Andy." The true surprise lies not so much in Goram's retreat from the front line as in the fact that he remained in active service for so long.

Only the deep seam of insouciance in his character can have prevented his form from being affected by a hectic existence. Goram, 34, has seen two marriages end while attracting unwelcome publicity for a boisterous private life that has brought him a conviction on drink-driving offences. There have been glimpses of disorder, too, in the tales of debts incurred by this highly-paid player.

In his career, there has been the disruption of serious knee



Goram is the best goalkeeper Scotland has produced, but his personal problems meant that he has had to endure as many lows as highs

injuries that required surgery. His survival at the highest level of the game has been at risk for years. In the summer of 1994, Rangers put him on the transfer list because Walter Smith, the manager, was dissatisfied with Goram's attitude to recovering fitness after an operation.

Goram was to be pardoned on that occasion and he has since been in need of further

reprieves. In August, 1995, he pulled out of the Scotland squad that was preparing for a European championship qualifying game against Greece at Hampden Park. On that occasion, it was explained that he was "not mentally attuned". Then, too, a forgiveness was extended that allowed him to return to the national team in May of the next year.

Tolerance has been forthcoming for two reasons. Goodwill often flows from pragmatism and Goram, who happened to be born in Bury, is the greatest goalkeeper that Scotland has produced. So influential was he that Rangers have been prepared to suffer the occasional eruption of disorderly behaviour for the past seven years. Only now, with his powers appar-

ently waning, has Goram, 34, been released by the club. It was always easy to excuse Goram when his remarkable anticipation and reactions allowed a side to hang on to a lead or evade a deserved defeat. There were, however, more noble reasons for sympathy. It is wrong to present Goram as a throwback to previous decades, when Scottish footballers were famed



Goram is the best goalkeeper Scotland has produced, but his personal problems meant that he has had to endure as many lows as highs

### FACTFILE

1964: Born Bury, April 13.  
1981: Three appearances in first season at Oldham after apprenticeship at West Bromwich.  
1986: Scotland debut against East Germany.  
1987: Joins Hibernian.  
1991: Takes over from Chris Woods after joining Rangers for £1 million.  
1993: Wins hat-trick of Scottish player-of-the-year awards but makes only eight appearances in 1993-94 season because of knee ligament injury.  
1994: Transfer-listed by Walter Smith after disagreements over his training routines.  
1996: Makes first international appearance for 18 months as Scotland are beaten 1-0 by Colombia in Miami and is Craig Brown's first choice for Euro 96.  
1997: Wins sixth Scottish League championship medal as Rangers equal Celtic's record of nine successive titles.  
1998: Rangers finish as runners-up to Celtic in the Premier Division and lose Scottish Cup final to Hearts. Goram is out of contract and will leave.

ionship finals, he was reinstated in the national team despite the magnificent service that Jim Leighton had given in his absence.

That pattern was unlikely to be repeated at the World Cup next month. The case for selecting Goram had been weakened by a season in which he had made more mistakes than in all the previous years with Rangers combined. In September, Leighton, 39, was preferred for the World Cup qualifying match against Belarus at Pittodrie and it is likely that Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, would have arrived at the same decision in France.

By electing to leave the squad, Goram has dodged that blow before it could be delivered. The frustration of weeks spent in close proximity to the World Cup action while being denied the chance to influence it has at least been avoided. All the same, a sense of loss must be inescapable in a man who knows that his greatest days are over.

After Rangers, where he won six championship medals, he may now be anxious about finding a club of suitable status that wishes to sign him. Brown has left open the door to yet another return to international football, but Goram may struggle to recover the poised gait that will allow him to walk through it.

## Croatia lack forward thinking

By Matt Dickinson

CROATIA, possible opponents for England in the second round of the World Cup, have been thrown into disarray. Having almost certainly lost Alen Boksic, the Lazio striker, for the tournament because of a knee injury, Miroslav Blazevic, the Croatia coach, further reduced his attacking options yesterday by sending home Igor Cvitanovic for refusing to run extra training laps.

Cvitanovic, 27, who plays for Real Sociedad, will miss the World Cup if Blazevic does not have a change of heart. Judging by the coach's reaction yesterday, he should not hold his breath. "Cvitanovic is definitely eliminated," Blazevic said. "Not even the President can save him now. I had to kick him out because he

threatened my authority. The worst thing is that I need him as badly as one needs bread."

The player is unrepentant, claiming that he was singled out for extra work. "I was exhausted," he said. "It seems some can have the luxury of being worn out and obviously can't" — a reference to Davor Suker, Zvonimir Boban and Robert Jarni, who were spared extra laps after complaining that they were still worn out from a hectic club season.

If Croatia finish second to Argentina in group H, they will meet England if Glenn Hoddle's side win group G. Alternatively, if Croatia win their group and England finish second, they will play each other.

Jürgen Klinsmann missed Germany's match against Finland in Helsinki last night because of injury. The former Tottenham Hotspur striker had to fly to Munich for treatment to bruising on his right leg. He was joined by Thomas Helmer, who required medical attention for a muscular problem. The pair are due to rejoin the squad today.

South Korea, the outsiders in group E, came from behind to draw 2-2 with the Czech Republic in Seoul yesterday. The home side fell behind to first-half goals from Jiri Nemec and Vratislav Lokvenc, but hit back after the break and reduced the deficit through Hwang Sun-Hong in

the 57th minute. Choi Yong-Soo equalised nine minutes from time.

"My kids allowed them to expose problems in defence in the first half, giving away easy goals, but they regained strength later," Cha Bum-Kun, the South Korea coach, said.

More than 700 screaming supporters gathered at Tokyo's international airport yesterday to wave farewell to the Japan squad as the players departed for the World Cup. With the Japanese league in only its sixth season, Japan are rank outsiders for the World Cup at 250-1 and are 25-1 just to win their group. The team's final warm-up game, at home to the Czech Republic last Sunday, drew a crowd of 67,000.

## Thrifty time in last chance saloon

Kevin McCarra uncovers reasons for optimism in Major League Soccer

Footballers in the United States are not so much celebrities as travelling salesmen. After a match with Scotland in the RFK Stadium, Washington, on Saturday, the nation's finest will move to New York and display their wares at a training session in Central Park.

In most other parts of the globe, so public an appearance might require the intervention of riot police, but popularity that is taken for granted everywhere else must still be earned in the United States, where football can be seen in its infancy. The very culture of the sport can be treated with suspicion and even resentment. Although the United States will play in the World Cup finals for the third successive time this summer, the concept of international competition sometimes proves unpersuasive. After all, it is only a marginal element in baseball, American football and basketball.

The teams in Major League Soccer (MLS) are, at present, depleted by call-ups to the United States squad. Derek Rae, a Scot who used to work for the BBC, now commentates for the ABC network and lives in Boston, where, sometimes, he finds himself acting as a mediator. "Supporters of the New England Revolution ask me why they have to put up with a weekend side," he said.

tion, however, lay heartening signs of allegiance to a particular club.

An earlier attempt at domestic football, the North American Soccer League (NASL), displayed vitality in the mid-1970s, but imported players such as Pelé and Franz Beckenbauer were an

artificial stimulant. The NASL succumbed to an early death in the 1980s. MLS is now in its third season and its tone is one of thrift. Talk of Jürgen Klinsmann coming to one of the clubs is countered by assertions that he had better leave his habitual wage demands behind him. No player in MLS earns more than \$190,000 dollars (£120,000), although, for leading figures, that sum is augmented greatly by sponsors.

Each club has to keep its salaries for the entire squad below \$1.5 million (£940,000). Frugality is generally regarded as an un-American activity.

and devotees of soccer believe that this is the last chance to integrate the game into American life. For the moment, MLS is happy to survive and entrench itself.

Levels of interest vary across the country. The New England Revolution and the New York/New Jersey

Metrostars regularly draw attendances of more than 20,000, but crowds at Kansas City Wizards can drop as low as 4,000. There is diversity, too, in the nature of the audiences. MLS sides often depend heavily on South American talent, such as Carlos Valderrama, of Colombia, and Jorge Campos, of Mexico, and ethnic minority communities provide many supporters.

In Ohio, on the other hand, it is the "soccer moms" who underpin suburban enthusiasm for the Columbus Crew. Although the game appeals to a variety of constituencies, little interest has been aroused so far in black people. Given

the black contribution to other sports in America, football finds itself deprived of a great source of talent.

Nonetheless, there is hard-headed evidence that expressions of faith in the sport's future are sincere. Philip Anschutz, an industrialist, had to pay the MLS \$20 million (£12.5 million) for the franchise to Chicago Fire, one of two new clubs this year. At present, television companies offer only token sums for broadcasting rights, but men such as Anschutz see a bonanza to come.

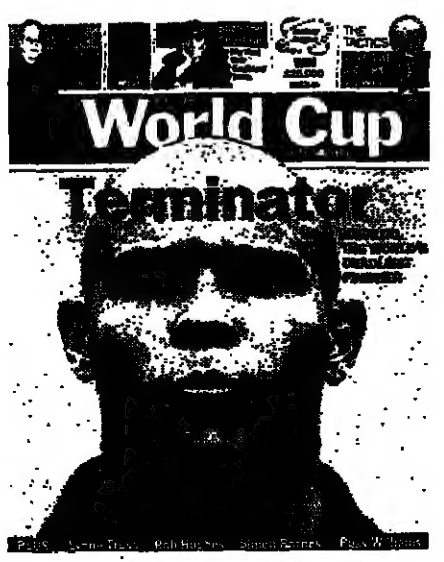
Despite the sometimes querulous attitude to the national team, progress at the World Cup would do much to secure status. The United States men are grouped with Germany, Yugoslavia and Iran, but, on the evidence of a recent 3-0 victory over Austria in Vienna, they will not shrink from the fight.

The adventure ought to continue far beyond the summer as a younger generation of talent matures. On Sunday, Brian Malsbomne, 24, made the opening goal for the United States against Kuwait — they won 2-0 — with a magnificent through-ball to Ernie Stewart delivered with the outside of his right foot. The trajectory of the midfield player's pass was more encouraging for American soccer than the line on any accountant's graph.



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The upsets remain province of men's event at French Open

# Qualifiers exemplify value of inequality

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS



Hings had little difficulty in disposing of Babel at Roland Garros yesterday

THE United States, the country that spawned political correctness, stands alone among the tennis grand-slam nations in paying equal prize-money to men and women. A discrepancy is maintained in Great Britain, Australia and here in France, where the case for the status quo required little amplification yesterday. A day punctuated by rain offered plenty of time to consider the merits of equal pay. It was a day when Martina Hingis walked past Melke Babel — herself a 6-1, 6-0 winner in the first round — for the loss of just three games; a day when Venus Williams went one better, dismissing Ai Sugiyama, ranked a mere ten places below her, 6-0, 6-2.

Meanwhile, in the men's event, five of the record 11 qualifiers in the second round prepared to create further mayhem. Mariano Zabalaeta, who accounted for Petr Korda, and Marat Safin, who toppled Andre Agassi, had already reaffirmed the cliché that there are no easy matches and Jens Knippschild drove the message home yesterday when the German qualifier battered Jim Courier, twice a champion here, in straight sets.

In this respect, world rankings can serve only to confuse. Mere resolution can bridge the numerically vast divide between Korda, world-ranked No. 2, and Zabalaeta, ranked 214 places below him. It is right on impossible to witness a similar upset in the women's game.

Hingis's match with Babel was a case in point. It took Hingis no time at all to impose her authority, after which she indulged in a series of strokes usually confined to the practice court. She attempted to play shots between her legs, she could afford to make elementary mistakes and she was able to practise her serve-and-volley technique without the slightest fear of retribution. It was over inside an hour.

Hingis's pleasant afternoon's stroll was tempered only by the fact that the sun wasn't shining. On she marched, into the third round of the only grand-slam title outside her possession. "I think I'm doing pretty well so far," Hingis said.

"Competition is better for the spectators. It's better to watch if there are some close matches, but today I showed some really good points at the net, some drop-shots, some other good shots. Even if it's easy, it still looks good."

Jana Novotna, seeded No. 3, had to work a little harder than Hingis. She fended off a first-set flurry from Emilie Loit, a wild-card entrant from France, before racing away with the match 7-5, 6-0. Curiously, however, Novotna felt that the women's seeds' serene procession through the early rounds was down to their collective excellence. "The women players are much more consistent than the men," Novotna ventured.

For her part, Williams argued that her opponent had played well — but that she had played "a little better" in winning 6-0, 6-2. She was detained a mere 50 minutes. For details of interest, journalists following the women's game often resort to inquiring about contact lenses that change the eye-colour of the user — thus Williams's eyes were the source of some confusion. "Are those green eyes, are they blue?" one scribe asked. "They're supposed to be grey," Williams replied. "Serenity, your younger sister" doesn't have this colour.

The great pity about the rain was that thousands of school-children who yesterday enjoyed the run of Roland Garros were left with precious little to savour. There was barely a fleeting glimpse of Marcelo Rios, who improved on his first-round defeat of

Brett Steven to overwhelm Emilio Alvarez, of Spain.

Alvarez might have made quite a bit more of this match. He might have set a better example to the children, with his attitude as well as his clothing. With his black T-shirt and headpiece modelled on a knotted handkerchief, the Spaniard resembled a builder's mate after a late night out on the Costa del Sol. He played like one, too, appearing more interested in pulling off spectacular cameos than winning the match.

Rios, who triumphed 6-4, 6-2, 6-2, can play better than this. His timing was slightly off, but the interesting aspect of his performance was his willingness to chase every ball, despite his superiority. Gone is the nonplussed character who would shrug at a passing groundstroke rather than run it down.

Rios, seeded No. 3, next plays Wayne Ferreira, the only man to beat him in the past three months — and then under mitigating circumstances in Hamburg three weeks ago. It was Rios's first match after a five-week absence from injury and Ferreira, although richly talented, will find the Chilean a different proposition this time.

Lurking further down the draw for Rios is Albert Costa, the other form player on the circuit. The two, scheduled to play the Italian Open final in Rome until Costa's late withdrawal through injury, almost seemed to be racing to complete their matches yesterday. Costa won by a short-head, beating Marc-Kevin Gollner 6-4, 6-3, 6-1.

Rios and Costa, seeded No. 13, are projected to trade fireworks in the last 16. But the man with most on his mind may be Filip Dewulf, the Belgian qualifier, who reached the semi-finals 12 months ago. Today Dewulf plays Marzio Martelli, who dismissed Goran Ivanisevic in straight sets on Tuesday.

## RESULTS FROM ROLAND GARROS

### MEN

SINGLES: First round

J. van Lohuizen (Hol) bt J. Stamenik (Hol) 6-7, 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2  
M. Zabalaeta (Arg) bt P. Korda (Can) 6-2, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3  
A. Bazzucchi (Sp) bt G. Stafford (SA) 4-6, 7-6, 6-3, 6-4  
G. Solaes (Fr) bt R. Rensberg (US) 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 6-7, 8-6

Second round

A. Costa (Sp) bt M.-K. Gollner (Ger) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1  
M. Rios (Chi) bt A. Alvarez (Sp) 6-4, 6-2  
W. Ferreira (SA) bt M. Novotna (Swe) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4  
F. Hingis (Ger) bt V. Spasieva (US) 7-6, 7-6, 6-3  
J. van Haverk (Bel) bt J. Mee (Sp) 6-3, 7-6, 7-6

B. Ullrich (Ger) bt M. Philippoussis (Aust) 6-2, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4, 6-2

J. Knippschild (Ger) bt J. Courier (US) 6-4, 6-2, 6-3

F. Meignen (Bel) bt V. Spasieva (US) 7-6, 7-6, 6-3

DOUBLES: First round

M. Hood (Arg) and S. Prieto (Arg) bt A. O'Brien (US) and J. Stark (US) 6-2, 6-4

D. Johnson (US) and F. Moriana (US) bt G. Solaes (Fr) and M. Costing (Hol) 6-1, 6-1

Second round

V. Williams (US) bt A. Sugiyama (Japan) 6-0, 6-2

A. Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) bt A. Gasi (Can) 6-2, 6-7, 6-4

M. Hingis (Swe) bt M. Babel (Ger) 6-1, 6-2

J. Novotna (Cze) bt E. Loit (Fr) 7-5, 6-0, 7-6, 6-3

DOUBLES: First round

J. Hladik-Duchet (Fr) and S. Testud (Fr) bt K. Faye (Ger) and P. Stryanov (Bul) 6-4, 6-1

T. Kamen (Slovenia) and K. Strobilov (Slovenia) bt D. Jones (Aus) and C. Schneider (Ger) 6-1, 6-1

K. Kunc (Aus) and C. Moraru (US) bt S. Han (Kor) and L. Fleming (Aust) 6-3, 6-4

Second round

J. P. Ruffin (GB) and L. Woodroffe (GB) 6-2, 6-2

## Rusedski plays wild card

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

GREG RUSEDISKI will defend his Nottingham Open title after accepting a wild-card entry for the event, which starts on June 15. Rusedski could meet Andre Pioline, of France, who beat the Great Britain No. 1 in the quarter-finals at Wimbledon last year before losing to Pete Sampras in the final.

Rusedski had planned to miss the tournament, but said: "I was expecting to play a few more clay-court matches this year and I need more tournament play. So I'll go to Nottingham to get as much practice on grass as I possibly can and win some matches. It will be great to get back onto grass again."

Five of the top 20 players in the world will be at Nottingham — Marcelo Rios, of Chile, Alex Corretja and Felix Mantilla, from Spain, Pioline and Rusedski, Tim Henman, the Great Britain No. 2, has not entered the tournament.

but may also change his mind and accept a wild card if he recovers quickly from his back injury.

There are three wild cards and two special exempt places in the field and Henman would be a welcome addition in the final.

Todd Witsken, whose victory over Jimmy Connors in the third round of the US Open in 1996 was the biggest victory of his career, has died after a battle with brain cancer. He was 34.

Witsken retired in 1993 and was diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme in August 1996. He underwent surgery to remove a malignant tumour that month and had further surgery three months later. Witsken underwent chemotherapy throughout last year. He won 11 doubles titles during his career and reached a career-high ranking of fourth in doubles and 43rd in singles.

Rusedski defend title

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

BERKSHIRE

(b) An old English black pig. A toponym from the doer home county where it was bred. The old Irish breed are a long-legged unsuitable sort of swine. But when they have been crossed with the Berkshire, they are considerably improved.

GARROCHA

(c) A Spanish bullfighter's goad. "Each [picador] was armed with a goad, or spear, the blade of which is only about an inch long, as the picadors are not allowed to kill the bull, but merely to irritate and goad him."

GIMBRI

(d) A small Moorish guitar played by plucking the strings with a piece of dry palm-leaf. Also, the player of this instrument. An adaptation of the Arabic *gambur*. "The slender, fanatical singer, whose fingers were skilled on the gimbri."

BULLAMACOW

(e) Corned beef, beefy beef. Also, cattle. A Fijian portmanteau of bull and cow. "We never entertained one whose face brightened perceptibly when bullamcaw and beetroot were placed before him."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Qxh1 Kxh1 (... h6x2. 2. h6h2 wins; 2. Rd7! Bb6 (2... R7x3, Qh5 wins); 3. Qh5 and mate follows.

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

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LORD'S: Middlesex vs Essex

SECOND DAY CHAMPIONSHIP: Second day of three

Derbyshire vs Lancashire

Derbyshire vs Lancashire

Derbyshire vs Lancashire

Derbyshire vs Lancashire

Derbyshire vs Lancashire

Derbyshire vs Lancashire

Derbyshire vs Lancashire

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Derbyshire vs Lancashire

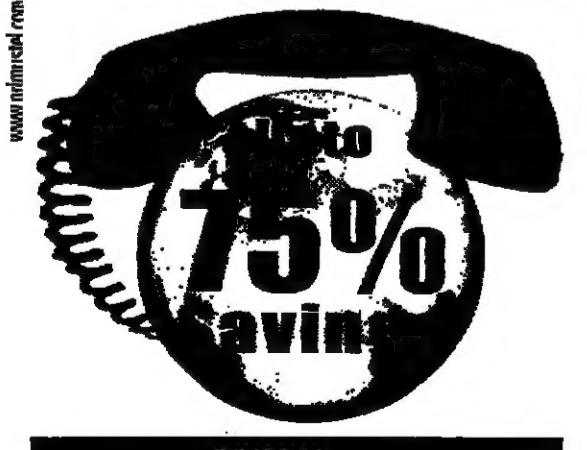
Derbyshire vs Lancashire

Derbyshire vs Lancashire

Derbyshire vs Lancashire

Derbyshire vs Lancashire

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## A recipe for peace of mind

Watchdog: The Big Dinner  
BBC1, 7.00pm

Of the making of *Watchdog* spin-offs there seems to be no end. Having extended the consumer brief to cover health, cosmetics, and leisure activities, the food business was an obvious next target. Johnathan Maitland, one of the *Watchdog* regulars, is the presenter and the show comes from a different location each week. As usual with the *Watchdog* programmes, this one is put together too close to transmission to be previewed. But among the regular spots are a challenge to food critics to do their own cooking, and trying out recipes in best-selling cook books that defeat even the master chefs. Tonight's items include an investigation into food at football grounds, the true story behind genetically modified food and the connection between fish bladders and red wine.

Birding with Bill Oddie  
BBC2, 8.00pm

Bill Oddie's enjoyable series dispenses with its usual regional format and takes an autobiographical turn, as Oddie recounts his early experiences as a birdwatcher and revisits his old haunts. He even owns up to stealing an egg from a nest, but having got the birdwatching misadventure out of his system, he settled down to being a responsible and conscientious birder, whose treatise on the subject won him a school natural history prize. A reservoir near Birmingham was his first local patch and he seems to have spent every spare hour there between the ages of 13 to 20, even though it was hardly teeming with birds. His other journeys into the past take him to Dungeness in Kent, and two very attractive locations in Norfolk. He says the facilities and mechanics have changed over 40 years but not the enthusiasm.

All the Right Moves  
BBC2, 8.30pm

Moving house is supposed to come close to divorce and bereavement in the trauma league, but not in this jolly series hosted by the *Top Gear* presenter Quentin Willson. The message is that buying and selling properties can be fun, if only you follow the helpful advice dispensed by Willson and his team.

Read Four  
Radio 4, 11.30am

The return of Lucy Flannery's sitcom that won both audience appreciation and awards last year. Judged by this opening episode, Flannery is in form this time, too. The first series depended for its tension on the presence in the Maria (Barbara Flynn) and Richard (Patrick Barlow) household of the lodgers Paul (Dave Lamb) and Ruby (Vivienne Rochester). They have now moved out, but not so you would notice. Ruby confides to Maria that she is a child, but is not sure if she wants Richard's child, though she would not have a child with anybody else. To this dilemma Maria can only suggest that Ruby might get "another girl". As ever, Maria is the emotional punchbag for all around her, her own needs subjugated to those of others.

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Wiley. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce. Includes 5.45pm Newsbeat 6.30 The Evening Session 8.30 Live Music 9.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Chris Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 3.00 John Peel 4.00 The Big Breakfast 5.00 The Big Breakfast 6.00 The Big Breakfast 7.00 The Big Breakfast 8.00 The Big Breakfast 9.00 The Big Breakfast 10.00 The Big Breakfast 11.00 The Big Breakfast 12.00 The Big Breakfast 1.00am The Big Breakfast

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme with Eleanor Oldroyd and Peter Allen 9.00am Brian Hayes 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Russ Williams 2.00pm Paul O'Connell 3.00pm The Big Breakfast 4.00 The Big Breakfast 5.00 The Big Breakfast 6.00 The Big Breakfast 7.00 The Big Breakfast 8.00 The Big Breakfast 9.00 The Big Breakfast 10.00 The Big Breakfast 11.00 The Big Breakfast 12.00 The Big Breakfast 1.00am The Big Breakfast

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Russ Williams 10.00 Paul O'Connell 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Robin Banks 7.30 Ray Charles 10.00 Mark Forster 2.00am Calvin James 5.00 Jerry Clark

TALK RADIO

6.30am Kelly Young with Bill Overton 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lynne Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Deely 7.00 Anna Rasmus 9.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins 5.00 The Early Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Petroc Trelawny. Includes Greg (Holberg Suite), Poulenc (Orchestre Chantrel), Tallis (Spem in Altum)  
9.00 Afternoon Concert, with Peter Hobbay. Includes Fats (Three Dances, the Three-Cornered Hat), Ravel (Sonatine), Granger (Youthful Suite), Beethoven (Piano Trio in B flat, Op 97, Archduke)  
10.30 Arts and Letters (John Harcourt No 1)  
11.00 Sound Stories: Musical Correspondents. The collaboration between Verdi and Arrigo Boito  
12.00 Composer of the Week: The Musicgrave  
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Presented by Chris de Souza from this year's Bath International Music Festival. Verano Quartet.  
2.00 The BBC Orchestra. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Osmo Vänskä, with Christine Russell and Co. 4.00 News 7.00 News 7.30 David Gower's Cricket Weekly. Cricketers chat from David Gower and guests, including a look ahead to the first Test 9.00 Inside Edge with Rob Barnett 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am On Air All Night 5.00 Morning Reports

RADIO 4

6.00am Today, with Alex Brodie and John Humphrys. Includes 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sports  
9.00 The Archers. The Archers. Includes Fats (Three Dances, the Three-Cornered Hat), Ravel (Sonatine), Granger (Youthful Suite), Beethoven (Piano Trio in B flat, Op 97, Archduke)  
10.30 Arts and Letters (John Harcourt No 1)  
11.00 Sound Stories: Musical Correspondents. The collaboration between Verdi and Arrigo Boito  
12.00 Composer of the Week: The Musicgrave  
1.00pm The Radio 4 Lunchtime Concert. Presented by Chris de Souza from this year's Bath International Music Festival. Verano Quartet.  
2.00 The BBC Orchestra. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Osmo Vänskä, with Christine Russell and Co. 4.00 News 7.00 News 7.30 David Gower's Cricket Weekly. Cricketers chat from David Gower and guests, including a look ahead to the first Test 9.00 Inside Edge with Rob Barnett 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am On Air All Night 5.00 Morning Reports

RADIO 5

6.00am Today, with Alex Brodie and John Humphrys. Includes 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sports  
9.00 The Archers. The Archers. Includes Fats (Three Dances, the Three-Cornered Hat), Ravel (Sonatine), Granger (Youthful Suite), Beethoven (Piano Trio in B flat, Op 97, Archduke)  
10.30 Arts and Letters (John Harcourt No 1)  
11.00 Sound Stories: Musical Correspondents. The collaboration between Verdi and Arrigo Boito  
12.00 Composer of the Week: The Musicgrave  
1.00pm The Radio 5 Lunchtime Concert. Presented by Chris de Souza from this year's Bath International Music Festival. Verano Quartet.  
2.00 The BBC Orchestra. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Osmo Vänskä, with Christine Russell and Co. 4.00 News 7.00 News 7.30 David Gower's Cricket Weekly. Cricketers chat from David Gower and guests, including a look ahead to the first Test 9.00 Inside Edge with Rob Barnett 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am On Air All Night 5.00 Morning Reports

RADIO 6

6.00am Today, with Alex Brodie and John Humphrys. Includes 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sports  
9.00 The Archers. The Archers. Includes Fats (Three Dances, the Three-Cornered Hat), Ravel (Sonatine), Granger (Youthful Suite), Beethoven (Piano Trio in B flat, Op 97, Archduke)  
10.30 Arts and Letters (John Harcourt No 1)  
11.00 Sound Stories: Musical Correspondents. The collaboration between Verdi and Arrigo Boito  
12.00 Composer of the Week: The Musicgrave  
1.00pm The Radio 6 Lunchtime Concert. Presented by Chris de Souza from this year's Bath International Music Festival. Verano Quartet.  
2.00 The BBC Orchestra. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Osmo Vänskä, with Christine Russell and Co. 4.00 News 7.00 News 7.30 David Gower's Cricket Weekly. Cricketers chat from David Gower and guests, including a look ahead to the first Test 9.00 Inside Edge with Rob Barnett 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am On Air All Night 5.00 Morning Reports

RADIO 7

6.00am Today, with Alex Brodie and John Humphrys. Includes 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sports  
9.00 The Archers. The Archers. Includes Fats (Three Dances, the Three-Cornered Hat), Ravel (Sonatine), Granger (Youthful Suite), Beethoven (Piano Trio in B flat, Op 97, Archduke)  
10.30 Arts and Letters (John Harcourt No 1)  
11.00 Sound Stories: Musical Correspondents. The collaboration between Verdi and Arrigo Boito  
12.00 Composer of the Week: The Musicgrave  
1.00pm The Radio 7 Lunchtime Concert. Presented by Chris de Souza from this year's Bath International Music Festival. Verano Quartet.  
2.00 The BBC Orchestra. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Osmo Vänskä, with Christine Russell and Co. 4.00 News 7.00 News 7.30 David Gower's Cricket Weekly. Cricketers chat from David Gower and guests, including a look ahead to the first Test 9.00 Inside Edge with Rob Barnett 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am On Air All Night 5.00 Morning Reports



Bill Oddie in action (BBC2, 8.00pm)

Those who have had experiences of estate agents will particularly enjoy one of tonight's items which suggests that you can sell your house quicker and much more cheaply without them. At least one of them three people featured here did, one of them claiming she had saved the price of a car. Against that there is a very sensible guide to presenting your house in the best light to a prospective buyer, and it comes from none other than an estate agent.

Locomax  
BBC2, 9.30pm

The history of Arctic exploration is not just about getting to the North Pole but doing so by the most unlikely means. The second helping of what in another context would be called ripping yarns, features attempts to reach the Pole by balloon, flying boat and airship. Salomon Andre is still a hero in his native Swedish town for a balloon flight made in 1897 from which he never returned. The story has a curious sequel in that it was not until more than 50 years later that Andre's fate was discovered. Roald Amundsen tried to get to the Pole by flying boat and was no more successful, but at least he survived. In 1926, he was an Italian, Umberto Nobile, finally crossed the Arctic in an airship and may have been the first man to see the Pole. Amundsen was lost two years later going to Nobile's rescue. It was a magnanimous gesture on the part of the Norwegian as the two men had fallen out.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Riotous Assemblies  
Radio 4, 8.00pm

The British are not generally known for taking to the streets, which is part of the reason why we regard the behaviour of such groups as French lorry drivers with astonishment. But the poll tax riots and roads protests have shown that the British, especially in modern times, do have a tolerance threshold and when it is breached they will take their argument to the barricades. This three-part series (in France it would be a 35-part series) looks at some of the more significant cases, and starts tonight in 1975, when serious shortages of food brought rioting all over the country. The key players were not men, but housewives in Carlisle, whose position as providers for their menfolk determined their action. Peter Barnard

WORLD SERVICE

7.00am News 7.15 Insight 7.30 Meridian News 8.00 News 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 Composer of the Month 9.00 News (9.45 only) News in German 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Newsbeat 9.30 Live Music 9.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Chris Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Breakfast with Bailey, Nick Bailey introduces music for the morning 9.00 Michael Aspin, Michael Barry presents a special 9.00, the Record of the Week 12.00 Lunchtime Requesta Jane Jones presents favourite music 2.00pm Concerto, Gershwin (Cello Concerto) 3.00 Jamie Cullum includes Continuous Classics and Alternative 4.00pm Newsnight. The latest headlines and sport updates, with John Bunning 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven, John Bunning introduces classic music 8.00 Evening Concert. Dvořák Symphonies, Variations, Spring Quotient. In a minor, Tchaikovsky (The Last Sleep of the Virgin), Janáček (Sinfonietta) 11.00 Mann at Night. Alan Mann presents music for the small hours 2.00am Concerto (1) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Petroc Trelawny. Includes Greg (Holberg Suite), Poulenc (Orchestre Chantrel), Tallis (Spem in Altum)  
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# Startling camerawork, but are we protected?

You could forgive any viewers who felt, after having seen more of Professor Robert Winston in last night's *Human Body* (BBC1) than they had been bargaining for, that they now understood what Dr Johnson meant when he told Boswell that the Giant's Causeway was worth going to see. Similarly, many viewers might well have decided that Professor Winston's sperm was worth seeing, but maybe just by Mrs Winston. Oh, go on then — but does it have to be in such excruciating close-up?

"These are my sperm," declared Winston rather proudly. "Amazingly, about 500 million of them from a single ejaculation" (well, you had to take his word for that). "With just this ejaculation," he added, more boastfully than was strictly necessary, "it should be possible to impregnate all the fertile women in Western Europe."

But it would be awfully fiddly, wouldn't it? And such a long wait for those at the back of the queue. Showing us film of sperm making its journey to the outside world like a carriage whooshing around a rollercoaster doesn't dramatically further our understanding of fertilisation or childbirth — the subject of the second programme in this seven-ages-of-man series. So we're shown the process just as it is now possible to do so? Car radios suffer from this problem. It costs nothing to programme 293 weakbeat features on to a computer chip, so they do. The result is that car radios are now so complicated that NASA astronauts can fly to the Moon and back without having worked out how to turn down the speakers for the two guys sitting in the back seats of the spaceship. Those special effects tricks created by Hollywood have also dulled our senses: it is hardly Winston's fault, but it takes a lot to

astonish us nowadays. It was startling to see Philipa Watson's pregnant stomach inflate like a balloon in a minute rather than over nine months — as a result of her being filmed every couple of weeks and then speeding up the film — but you doubt it would have impressed the special effects crews on *Titanic*, or *Men In Black*.

What intrigues me most, however, is that at the beginning of the programme Winston said that more than 100 million acts of sexual intercourse take place each day, resulting in 910,000 conceptions and 400,000 babies. Yet at the end of the programme, after Philipa had given birth to a girl, Winston said that this baby was one of a million born that same day. So what happened to that 400,000 figure? I can only guess that either (a) my sums are wrong, or (b) there are roughly 150 million acts of

## REVIEW



Joe Joseph

sexual intercourse being undertaken each day by people who haven't bothered to register with Professor Winston first.

If only the Red Cross's omissions were as easy to overlook. In the second episode of *Crossing the Lines* (BBC2) last night, John Simpson condemned the Red Cross for being aware of the Holocaust and doing nothing. The punch carried extra weight by

being delivered just as the Independent Commission of Enquiry, which has been investigating Switzerland's dealings with the Third Reich, confirmed that Swiss central bankers bought gold from the Reichsbank, knowing it was being stolen from Jews. Most people have given up despairing at how the Swiss managed to square humanitarianism with helping Hitler to fund his war, so full credit to Simpson that he can still seethe at what he termed the Red Cross's "weak and cowardly" behaviour.

The Red Cross is — justifiably — remembered with gratitude by thousands of POWs on both sides of the war. But not by Frank Bright. He escaped the gas chambers, but no thanks to the Red Cross. "If you hear the Red Cross is coming," said Bright, "you hope they'll do something, they'll give you food parcels, they'll prevent further transportations, they'll do something. In the end, they

didn't." Switzerland may be in danger of giving neutrality a bad name, but nobody is actually accusing the Red Cross of being the oppressors, only that it turned a blind eye to the people who were — which, when you think of it, is pretty odd behaviour for a humanitarian organisation that was created to stand up for good against evil.

Boris Johnson, a game *Telegraph* journalist, is fast turning into a man who will stand up for anything, so long as it offers him a chance to be humiliated on television. On last night's *Leviathan* (BBC2), for the purposes of comparing old and new testing methods, Johnson agreed to sit an old-style history O-level (in which he had to write little essays about the significant events of, say, 1066, 1832, 1939, and so on) along with a modern history GCSE (questions based on source material

that is included in the exam paper). He did better on the former. Mark Urban, the presenter, told Boris that the examiner thought he "lacked the technique of extracting relevant detail from the source material". Boris agreed: "Yes, well, that might be a legitimate criticism." Urban: "A worrying one for a journalist." Johnson: "Well, um... sure."

It marked the second time in a month that Johnson has been wrong-footed by TV producers. Having acknowledged that he walked into an elephant trap when *Have I Got News For You* when his friendship with the fraudster Darius Guppy blew up in his face, here he was being told (unfairly) that he lacked a basic journalistic skill. Next thing you know, Professor Winston will ask him to lend a hand on *The Human Body* and we'll all be gawping at 500 million potential Boris Johnsons swimming across our TV screens.

### BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (17751)
- 7.00am Breakfast News (17935)
- 9.00am A Date with the Doctor (226935)
- 9.30am Kilroy (280295)
- 10.00am The General (42374)
- 10.30am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1876481)
- 10.55am The Really Useful Show (1795041)
- 11.30am Who'll Do the Pudding? Includes recipes for Black Forest pancakes and summer salad with salmon and herb mayonnaise (17225)
- 12.00pm News (1) regional news and weather (851540)
- 12.05pm Wogan's Web Live discussion with Terry Wogan (750493)
- 1.00pm One O'Clock News (1) (80022)
- 1.30pm Regional News and weather (1) (1319374)
- 1.40pm The Weather Show (2271732)
- 1.45pm Neighbours Ben comes out of the coma (1) (8532374)
- 2.10pm Ironside Ed Brown is accused of murder (1) (963896)
- 3.00pm Through the Keyhole (6374)
- 3.30pm Playdays (1) (790731) 3.50pm The Littlest Pet Shop (233409) 4.00pm Fievel's American Tail (1) (5257732) 4.25pm Mr Wymt (1) (855558) 4.40pm Goodies (1) (2515041) 5.00pm Newsround (1) (856549)
- 5.10pm No Sweat (1) (868731)
- 5.35pm Neighbours (1) (1) (470428)
- 6.00pm Six O'Clock News (1) and weather (857)
- 6.30pm Regional News (1) (119)
- 7.00pm Watchdog: Big Dinner Watchdog: Johnathan Maltland presents a new food-orientated consumer series (1) (1883)
- 7.30pm EastEnders Roy's plans come unstuck (1) (813)
- 8.00pm Crime Beat Marilyn Lewis investigates new approaches to monitoring problem families whose anti-social and criminal behaviour makes them the neighbours from Hell (7003)
- 8.30pm Keeping Mum Pooky causes uproar by pinching a dog from one of the neighbours (1) (6138)
- 9.00pm Party Political Broadcast by the Labour Party (855461)
- 9.05pm Nine O'Clock News (1) regional news and weather (551409)
- 9.35pm Men Behaving Badly Tony continues his fruitless attempts to impress Deborah (1) (1) (871408)
- 10.05pm The Ben Elton Show Standup comedy (87888)
- 10.35pm Smith and Jones Outlandish comedy from Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones (1) (861118)
- 11.00pm Question Time David Dimbleby directs the questions to the panel from an audience in Birmingham (250596)
- 12.05pm The Day of the Triffids (1962) Sci-fi adventure based on John Wyndham's novel about desperate efforts to prevent a race of mobile flesh-eating plants taking over the Earth. With Howard Keel, Janette Scott and Nicole Maury. Directed by Steve Seely (2114097)
- 1.35pm Weather (3849523)
- 1.40pm BBC News 24 (8552900)

### BBC2

- 6.10am Building in Cells (3014848) 6.35am A Tale of Two Cities (5275119)
- 7.00am Teletubbies (1) (947596) 7.25pm Richard Scary (945603) 7.50pm The Flintstones (7524480) 8.15pm Blue Peter (1) (874220) 8.35pm Furry Friends (470596) 9.00pm Buried Treasure (2234577) 9.20pm Sweet Valley High (1) (876789) 9.45pm Postman Pat (1) (7183461) 10.00pm Teletubbies (40916)
- 10.30pm Moon Pilot (1961) Science fiction comedy with Tom Truon, as an astronaut whose planned lunar orbit is thrown into confusion by a beautiful alien. Directed by James Neilson (878535)
- 12.10pm Cartoons (342922) 12.30pm Working Lunch (14918) 1.00pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 1.05pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 1.10pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 1.15pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 1.20pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 1.25pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 1.30pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 1.35pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 1.40pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 1.45pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 1.50pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 1.55pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 2.00pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 2.05pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 2.10pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 2.15pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 2.20pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 2.25pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 2.30pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 2.35pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 2.40pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 2.45pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 2.50pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 2.55pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 3.00pm The Family Ness (1) (1409701) 3.05pm The Family 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CRICKET 48  
Maddy's 93 steers  
Leicestershire  
into semi finals

# SPORT

THURSDAY MAY 28 1998

TENNIS 50

Hingis emphasises  
inequality of  
women's game



Victory over Morocco boosts England morale after Wright injury fears fade

## Owen provides happy ending

England 1  
Morocco 0

FROM OLIVER HOLT  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT  
IN CASABLANCA

LIKE Bogart and Bergman before them, Glenn Hoddle and his England side flirted with calamity in Casablanca last night before they groped their way to something approaching a happy ending. By the end, even the fog of despair that seemed to have enveloped them when Ian Wright limped off with what appeared to be a hamstring injury midway through the first half, was beginning to lift.

The message from the England camp last night was that it would still be foolish to discount Wright from the final



World Cup squad of 22 that Glenn Hoddle will announce in La Manga on Monday. He may have left the pitch with an ice-pack strapped to his leg, but the injury is said to be minor and capable of healing in time for England's first match against Tunisia on June 15.

Even if Wright's chances of going to France have been diminished, England showed enough courage and commitment after his substitution to suggest they could yet prosper in France.

Their 1-0 victory over a skilful home side, courtesy of a clinically-taken goal by Michael Owen — his first for his country in only his fourth appearance — will provide them with the morale-booster that they were so desperately searching for.

There was also great significance in the cultured performances of Steve McMan-



Dublin, one of England's successes in a much-changed side, contests possession with Rossi in the 1-0 victory over Morocco in Casablanca. Photograph: Marc Aspland

man, who should have played his way into Hoddle's squad with this display, and Dion Dublin and Sol Campbell, who enhanced their claims, too.

The capacity crowd had been packed into the stadium for two hours by the time that the match kicked off under

overcast skies. They roared out their approval for a team that has lost only three times in their last 23 games and which, on this performance, will make Scotland's task in their attempts to qualify for a World Cup group that also includes Brazil and Norway all the tougher.

England started with only two of the team who had taken part in the tepid draw with Saudi Arabia last Saturday. The biggest surprise in the line-up was the inclusion of Ince, who had injured an ankle in training the day before and had had it heavily strapped. He took the field as captain, showing no ill-effects. Hoddle also included Graeme Le Saux, back after injury, McManaman, in a central midfield role, and Dublin in preference to Les Ferdinand.

In the face of the passion of the Moroccan, England seemed to wilt in the early stages. They were tentative and palpably unsure of themselves, misreading passes, mistiming runs, misreading the intentions of their teammates. Gascoigne, starting an England match for the first

time since the draw with Italy in Rome last October, was especially culpable.

Before ten minutes had elapsed, Keown nearly played Southgate into trouble with an overhit pass and, for the first 20 minutes of the half, all the dedicated band of England supporters had to cheer was an improvised, flicked corner from Gascoigne that allowed Anderton the chance to aim a rare shot at goal.

The problems, though, were only just beginning. In the 24th minute, Wright, chasing back to try to tackle Saber along the touchline, pulled up suddenly and fell to the floor. He lay there in front of the England bench, a pitiful sight, holding his head in his hands. His team-mates rushed to console him as he was given treatment and eventually he limped disconsolately off the pitch. He had only had time to strap an ice-pack to the injured hamstring when he was stopped in his tracks by an incident that befell his replacement, Owen.

Owen, who would almost certainly have been in the final 22 without the injury to

Wright, hurried on to a through-ball from Le Saux and was brought crashing to the ground in a sickening collision with Benzakri.

Owen appeared to have been knocked unconscious and Dublin had the presence of mind to roll him immediately on to his side to stop him

England will face competition to host the 2006 World Cup from South Africa after the country's Government yesterday agreed to back a bid to take the finals to Africa for the first time. Fifa, the world governing body, yesterday said that Joao Havelange would be made honorary president.

swallowing his tongue. The England players and the referee gestured that the stretcher should be brought on urgently, but Owen was able to walk groggily to the touchline and returned to the fray.

England at last forged a half-chance in the first minute of the second half when Dublin headed Le Saux's free kick

just over the bar. Owen was denied a penalty when the referee ignored his claims for a push in the box and then McManaman continued the mini-revival, beating a defender with a dribble and then freeing Owen, who had strayed marginally offside.

In the 52nd minute, though, Morocco nearly took the lead when Rokki allowed the ball to sit up for him and struck a fierce volley from 25 yards that had Flowers backpedalling but just cleared the bar.

Seven minutes after that, though, England were rewarded for their renewed vitality. McManaman, so often spurned by Hoddle and so often an under-achiever for his country, won a ball in midfield through sheer persistence, and just as it seemed it was about to drift away from him, he flicked a delightful pass forward to Owen.

Owen tricked his marker, turned him and set off for goal. It was clear no one could catch him and he sidefooted his shot calmly past Benzakri to put England into the lead. McManaman's delighted response showed just how sig-

nificant his part in the goal might be for his prospects of making Hoddle's final squad.

ENGLAND (4-4-2): T. Flowers (Blackburn Rovers); M. Keown (Aston Villa); G. Southgate (Aston Villa); S. Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur); D. Anderton (Tottenham Hotspur); P. Gascoigne (Middlesbrough); P. Ince (Liverpool); S. McManaman (Liverpool); G. Le Saux (Chelsea); D. Dublin (Coventry City); S. L. Ferdinand (Tottenham Hotspur); T. Wright (Aston Villa); M. Owen (Liverpool, 25).

MOROCCO (4-4-2): D. Benzakri (PS Senegal); A. Saber (Sporting Lisbon); Y. Rokki (Feyenoord); D. Negrouz (Etar); A. Hadjoui (Bordobja); S. Chibab (Comptone); S. G. Amine (Mouloudia); P. Tahir (Wydad Casablanca); Y. Chagga (FC Porto); A. Quassi (Mouloudia); S. Bessis (Dynamo La Coruna); R. Haddad (SCOM); S. A. B. Khattabi (Hammam, 62).

Referee: M. Ghann (Tunisia).

## Another record falls to youth

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

MICHAEL Owen, at 18 years and 164 days, became the youngest player to score for England with his goal against Morocco yesterday. The Liverpool forward beat the previous record set by Tommy Lawton, who was 19 years and six days old when he scored a penalty against Wales in Cardiff on October 22, 1938.

"Having been the youngest player to play for England, it was great to become the youngest to score," Owen, who was injured in a collision with the goalkeeper, said. "I can't remember anything about the first half. The physio said he thought I had been knocked out, but I can remember the goal. It's about the only thing I can remember."

It is the latest in a long line of records that Owen has broken. He beat Gary Speed's record of being the youngest player to represent Decide when he played his first match just after his eighth birthday. In 1995, he beat the England record of goals in schoolboy internationals.

Owen marked his debut for England under the last season by scoring all four goals in England's 4-0 win against Northern Ireland and scored on his FA Cup Premier League debut for Liverpool against Wimbledon.

He first trained with the full England squad in October 1997 and made his debut against Chile on February 11 aged 18 years and 59 days. England's youngest player for more than 100 years. Yesterday was his third England appearance.

The bookmakers were quick to react to Owen's goal. William Hill made him a 25-1 chance to be the World Cup's leading scorer. Following their victory over Morocco, England remain 7-1 joint-second favourites for the World Cup with William Hill who also offer France, Germany and Italy at 7-1 with Brazil the 11-4 favourites.

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, said he felt that his side had begun to assert themselves ten minutes before half-time. "We weathered the storm and eventually the fans turned against their team."

No. 60214

Five nuclear

## Pakis draw level arms

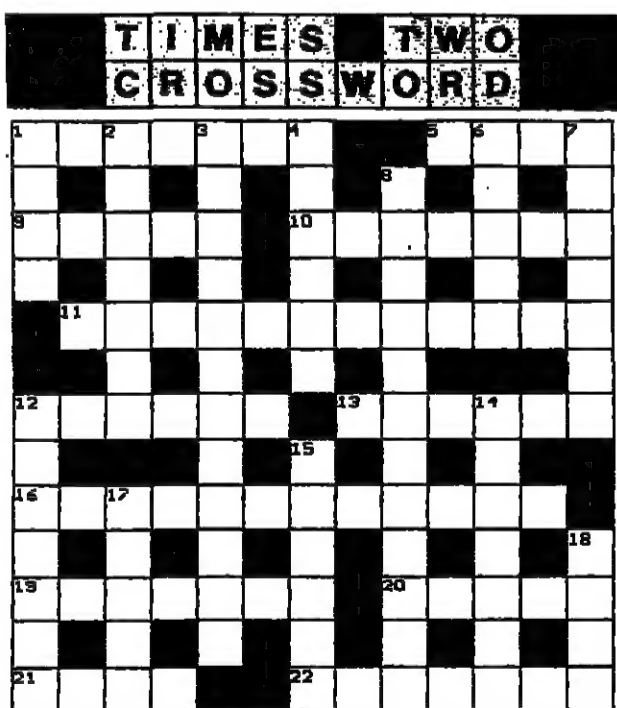
By ZAHID HUSSAIN AND BENJAMIN

PAKISTAN's nuclear war with India by a nuclear war between the two most bitter enemies claiming to be the world's nuclear power.

The underdog team conducted in defence leaders who had been seen not to respond to the most bitter enemies claiming to be the world's nuclear power.

The underdog team conducted in defence leaders who had been seen not to respond to the most bitter enemies claiming to be the world's nuclear power.

The underdog team conducted in defence leaders who had been seen not to respond to the most bitter enemies claiming to be the world's nuclear power.



No 1417

ACROSS

- 1 Jug: baseball player (7)
- 2 Improve, repair (4)
- 3 Take place (5)
- 4 Grow fast; terribly with gun- (5,2)
- 5 Obstacle race (12)
- 6 Exactly; some Kipling stories (4,2)
- 7 Talk rubbish: a pancake (6)
- 8 Second sight (12)
- 9 Zambia/Zimbabwe border river (7)
- 10 Part of tree, of elephant (5)
- 11 Tiny amount: Gk. letter (4)
- 12 Faithfulness (7)

DOWN

- 1 Piece of land; storyline (4)
- 2 Lat. historian, compressed style (7)
- 3 Doctors' road, London (6,6)
- 4 Outcome (6)
- 5 Run not off bat (5)
- 6 Run down (resources) (7)
- 7 With insouciance (12)
- 8 Water-jet bath (7)
- 9 Based on actuality (7)
- 10 Of the community: a friendly gathering (6)
- 11 Confess to; allow entry (5)
- 12 (Give) approval (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1416

- ACROSS: 1 Regalia 5 Rabid 8 Burst 9 Benefit 10 Crevasse 11 Lash 13 Autograph book 16 Cube 17 Downstep 20 Puccini 21 Lathi 22 Ebony 23 Lipping
- DOWN: 1 Rebecca 2 Gorse 3 Lethargy 4 Ambassadorial 5 Rank 6 Buffalo 7 Ditch 12 Chorlies 14 Tobacco 15 Kipling 16 Copse 18 Turti 19 Wiry

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## Door left open for Goram

FROM KEVIN MCCARRA IN NEW JERSEY

RARELY has the break-up of a relationship been suffused with so much harmony. On Tuesday, Andy Goram, the goalkeeper who has been beleaguered by newspaper coverage of his private life, chose to leave the Scotland squad that is preparing for the World Cup with two friendly matches in the United States. The Rangers player also announced his retirement from international football, but there have been no accusations of betrayal from the Scotland manager.

Craig Brown has been intent only on maintaining the possibility of rehabilitation for Goram. Although the goalkeeper, 34, had also withdrawn from the party before a European championship qualifying game against Greece in August 1995, Brown's reaction to the latest departure is one not just of tolerance, but of respect.

"If this had happened at the World Cup, we would not have been allowed to bring in a replacement goalkeeper," the manager said. "We have to give him credit for making an early decision that cannot have been easy for him. He could have stayed on and landed us in the soup in

France. It's a sacrifice because it would have been possible for him to go to the World Cup and just collect his share of any bonuses that were due.

"If he comes back at a future date and tells me that he is settled, that he has got a new club and wants to be reconsidered, then I will be happy to do so." Goram's place in the party has been given to Jonathan Gould, of Celtic, who arrived in the United States yesterday. It is Goram, however, who remains the subject of debate.

Brown's sympathy towards

him will incur hostility from those who believe that the goalkeeper is guilty of a disloyalty that cannot be pardoned. The manager, however, is resolved to give full weight to what he termed "extenuating circumstances". The reference was to the bombardment of phone calls from journalists that have been occasioned by reports of Goram's relationship with a woman who used to work for Celtic.

Goram seems to have felt that the attention was impinging on the squad's preparations and he handed Brown a letter announcing his decision on Tuesday morning. "I told him that he was being hasty, but he was adamant that he had to get away," the manager said. It could be that Goram was eager to escape from more than just newspaper inquiries.

These have been particularly turbulent months for a man whose life is rarely calm. His association with Rangers, whom he joined from Hibernian in 1991, ended recently when he was not offered a new contract. Goram is therefore in search of a new club at a moment when his form has wavered. His last match for

Rangers, the Tennents Scottish Cup final, brought a 2-1 defeat by Heart of Midlothian. With his country, Goram was no longer sure of a place in the team. Jim Leighton, of Aberdeen, had been first choice in most of the World Cup qualifying matches and there has been little cause to replace him. In consequence, Goram may have suspected that a World Cup of frustrating inactivity lay before him.

The contest for selection has been keen. Goram was preferred for Euro 96 and Leighton, recalling that decision, recently admitted: "I cried my eyes out for three days." The risk of a repetition of such misery is virtually gone and Leighton, if fit, will be between the posts for the opening game of the World Cup finals, against Brazil on June 10.

The knowledge brought relief, but did not remove the poignancy. "I've been pals with Andy since he came into the Scotland squad in 1984," Leighton said. "And the friendship is not in doubt. Once he's had a good break and found a new club, this will all be in the past. The players would welcome him back."

Victim of life, page 49

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### Blair and PoWs to have talks

Tony Blair is to hold talks with former Japanese POWs to smooth the dispute that has dogged the visit to Britain of Emperor Akihito. The Emperor visited New Zealand yesterday at No 10 and gave a banquet at the V&A... Page 11

### AA may reform

The Automobile Association is to consider reform of its process in response to a series of accidents of behaviour. The AA is a self-perpetuating body... Page 29

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